

Oxford Village Society AGM : 27 April 2019 8pm

Minutes

1. No Apologies

2. Approval of Minutes from last AGM.

Proposed – Barbara Darby

Seconded – Pat

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's report

The committee agreed to continue as an entity to keep the Society in existence in readiness to respond to issues as they arise, achieving as much as possible with our limited resources. We do this in the belief that, were there to be a major issue, an appeal for support from village residents would be considerably more successful than our continuing appeals for help.

2018 saw the OVS committee members reduce from 6 to 4. We thank Ted Scott and Phil Chapman for their good work on behalf of the village.

The minimum number to operate as a charity is 3; we are at risk of ceasing to exist unless we can recruit more committee members.

Church Hall

Members of the committee met with Phil Clucas - briefed on evidence that the hall was designed by Edward Lutyens. Members of the committee also attended church consultation display.

Result: OVS wrote to the Church with our view that the hall should continue in use as a hall, ideally managed by OVMH, and that funds for refurbishment should be sought from OPC and by fund raising by local groups.

Constitution

Derek Buck concluded the process to formally adopt the constitution approved at the last AGM by establishing that the charity commission only requires the Trustees to approve to document, which we have now done, and a copy will be placed on our website.

SDC Plan

Representatives from the committee joined OPC Councillors on a working group to respond to the consultation on the SDC local plan update, which included for the extension of the Vestry Estate on to the green belt, and thus closer to the Village. The working group produced and delivered a flyer urging residents to respond to the consultation, which unfortunately was not a simple matter.

The committee submitted a response on behalf of the Society, and the committee submitted their individual personal responses. The membership were contacted and urged to make a submission and given guidance on how to do it.

Village Projects

We responded to the invitation by the Chairman of OPC to submit projects for consideration with a list which included such projects as village public toilets, traffic calming measures, planting trees in the verges, clearing some of the footpaths, re-painting village signage.

Traffic Working Group

Ted Scott kindly represented the Society on the working group whose work was well received and which has culminated in OPC appointing a consultant.

Heritage Trail

The committee were delighted that Rod Shelton invited the Society to support the Trail and acknowledged our doing so on the panels. The Trail is a great success and Rod is going to tell us the next steps later. As our event to raise funds for the Trail had to be cancelled we made a donation from reserves which Andy will tell you about later.

Membership emails

In December we contacted 16 other village Trusts, Societies and groups to request them to forward our appeal to join us to their members. 3, The Gardeners Society, Otford Primary School and the Traffic Management Group, confirmed that they had passed our request on to their members

Fracking

We appealed to members to use the CPRE website link to express their views to councillors and MP on Fracking.

5. Treasurer's Report

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Nick Rusby reaffirmed Andy's statement that the Palace Field apple trees were now a parish council responsibility along with the rest of the field.

6. Events Report

A Race Night had been organised for December but was cancelled when it was learnt that The Woodman were having the same event 3 weeks before.

A St George's day was in planning, but we didn't have enough people available to organise and man.

A fundraising community Raffle is planned for 2019.

What events would the members like? Jenne suggested walks.

7. Membership Report

New emails have been steady this year. We have managed to obtain more then 60 new emails.

Members are not wanting to be an Active member, they wish to know what's happening and jump into action should they need to, however given todays way of living, many families do not have the time.

8. Election of Chairman, officers and committee members

There were no nominations from the floor so the current team offered themselves for re-election. Janet Boswell proposed and Richard Worssam seconded followed by a unanimous vote.

9. AOB

Nick Rushby reported that the AGM was the best kept secret in Otford. Keith Gofton explained that the AGM had been notified several times in the Parish Council newsletter and in emails to members.

Rod Shelton suggested that the Society publish an online newsletter. Keith Gofton explained that we had lost our Newsletter editor and in any event not enough happened to make a newsletter worthwhile.

Nick Rusby advised that the Society needed a vision. Keith Gofton explained that, with only 4 people who led busy lives, the committee were not able to take on more without more assistance. However he invited members to make suggestions for consideration when resources permitted.

Mike Forrester advised of issues with contractors parking on grass verges and not making good the damage after completion. Nick Rushby advised that the matter is for Sevenoaks District Councillors and advised that they be contacted. He advised that OPC do charge contractors who park on OPC areas punitive amounts.