



The Otford Society Annual General Meeting

Minutes

24th May 2023 at 7.30pm Club Room OVMH

Present: R Shelton (Chair), S Featherstone (Vice Chairman), C Sutton (Treasurer), C Bent (Secretary), P Clucas (Promotion), P Chatterjee, J Kelly, G Bignell, M Bradnock and 40 members of the public

Guest speaker: Dr C Gardner

- 1. Apologies for absence – R Rogers, E Thompson, S Stephenson, Derek and Eileen Williams**
- 2. The Minutes of 2022 were considered (copies were made available for members of the public to peruse as well as being available on the website in advance). The Minutes were approved.**

3. Chairman's Report (Rod Shelton)

The Chairman outlined the successes of the past year's projects and again outlined the formation and workings of The Otford Society and introduced the new Management team. He reiterated that the responsibility of the Society falls to five Trustees who are elected annually and five management Committee members who were recommended for selection by the Trustees. He emphasised that the key to the success of this year had been the role of the volunteers who support our events. Particular thanks were given to Simon Featherstone, the deputy chair, who had built up such a strong team.

The Chairman referred to the newly prepared Constitution which he hopes the membership will adopt at the next public meeting in October. The draft proposition will be available to membership for consideration in advance of the meeting. He restated the Society's original aims that the membership should include all residents within the Otford Parish boundary.

He gave particular thanks to P Chatterjee for her inspirational lead in organising the Village Fete, which now forms part of the society. The monies raised from this event as previously will continue to be available to village societies and associations upon request.

Thanks were given to Rod Shelton for his tireless enthusiasm and contribution in his leadership role to the Society,

4. Treasurer's Report (Chris Sutton)

The Treasurer reported that the Society's accounts had had a healthy trajectory over this past year compared to previous years. Using accompanying slides he provided a very comprehensive breakdown of the Society's finances. In summary, he outlined that 64% came from Projects, 22% from Donations, 10% from giftaid (organised by S Featherstone), and 4% from other donations.

Our net worth stands at £18,864 in the Bank; £29 in cash and £1,134 in Assets. In total £20,029. The merger of the Village Fete funds has contributed to this income.

The audience were given the opportunity to ask questions before the Accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Vice Chairman's Report(Simon Featherstone)

Before, giving the audience a breakdown of the year's events, S Featherstone gave thanks to C Sutton for taking on the role as Treasurer and to R Shelton for his continuing leadership.

The Vice Chairman, with accompanying slides, gave an outline as to why the Society wants to put on events:

- a. To foster and promote the community spirit
- b. To enhance the quality of life for all within the village
- c. To provide support and help village businesses thrive
- d. To raise money for village community projects

During the past year the Society has organised the following ten events: Otford Village Fete, Christmas Fayre with Christmas Grotto, Jubilee BBQ, Garden Party, Race Night, Antiques Road Show, Safety in the village with defib training and the Otford Eggstravanza.

The latest project was the Coronation BBQ on the village Green. It was attended by approximately 1000 people with 735 meals served. Thanks were given to the other contributors into making this event so successful: The Scouts, The Bull, The Churches etc.

Furthermore thanks were given to the Otford Station Partnership with their ongoing planting, window boxes, hanging baskets and the historical posters still to be displayed.

Again, thanks were given to the group of volunteers for their role in these events and hopefully more will be recruited to 'Join in the Fun'.

6 .Election of Chairman, Trustees, Officers to hold office for the next 12 months

Rod Shelton was re-elected by a unanimous vote to continue as Chairman (proposed by M Bradnock, seconded by E Ward).

The remaining Trustees Chris Sutton, S Featherstone, C Bent and P Clucas were collectively proposed and seconded by the whole meeting and unanimously elected to continue in their roles.

7 .The Otford Community Superstar Award was awarded to Mr Shafi, our local pharmacist. A certificate and a Japanese quince were presented to him in recognition for his long service to the community.

8. AOB

A question was raised by a member of the audience for clarification as to what it means to be a 'donor' to the Society and what benefits does a donating member receive. S Featherstone responded that this matter is in the forefront of our present considerations and under discussion by the Trustees and Management Committee. We intend that the question of membership benefits be clarified at our next public meeting in October.

9. Next Meetings

General Public Meeting Monday 30th October 2023

AGM Tuesday 30th April 2024

The meeting concluded with a talk by Dr C Gardner, Deputy Chair of the South East River's Trust 'The river with a bright future'.

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm