

Minutes of the Silchester Association 2018 AGM

7.30pm 13th April 2018

Silchester Village Hall, Club Room

Apologies for Absence – Nick & Bidy West, Della Raven, David Livingstone, Helen Morgan, Paul Hearn, Derek Fawcett, Heather Cole, Sarah Spencer, Peter Howell, Vicky Rodd, Marsden and Nancy Jones

Present from the Committee – Simon Brewin, Lesley Brewin, David Westwood, Sara Westwood, Sarah Roper, Pauline Davis, John Davis, Andy Hartley, Amy Donnelly

Present from the membership – Jan Hughes (Phoenix Club and Welcomers), Pete Hughes (Silchester Life), Howard Wilkinson, Paul Roper, Steve Spillane (Village Hall Trustees), Irene Spillane, Ann-Marie Dalton (Phoenix Club & Richard Hyde), Stephen Langstaff, Simon Mahaffey (Parish Council), Mike Thomas, Paula Gibbons (Market and Fete)

Guests - Meg Verrall (Rainbows), Rachel Dean (PTA), Tim Oliver (Silchester Players),

1. Minutes of the last AGM.

The minutes of the last AGM on 8th April 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Sarah Roper - Seconded: Amy Donnelly

Matters Arising

- After Simon's plea for help at the Bonfire night, we made a great effort to attract more people onto the sub-committee.
- After discussion about how to attract more people to attend the AGM, it was decided to ask representatives from other organisations to attend and share their plans for next year.

2. Chairman's Report: The Chairman - Sara Westwood

Sara reported that the Association has had a busy year. We have run a series of different events and have donated a sizable amount to other groups in the village. This year's committee worked well and it was good to work with an experienced group but we are always looking for new blood.

Sara reminded us of the SA's objectives and summarised all the events that we have run over the year attracting an attendance in total of over 2,000 people.

This year the SA has striven to improve communications within the community. The silchester.org email system has been taken over by Richard Cartwright and seems to be running smoothly. The Association has provided some financial back up to start it up and will support it financially in the future if it proves to be not self-sufficient. The basic service is free to residents or a

premium service is also available for a nominal charge of £10 (£15 for non-residents).

The new website is now up and running and has links to many other groups in the village. It provides a facility to promote upcoming events and provides information about Silchester and contacts for activities. We also have a Facebook page which is proving successful in promoting events and we have a Twitter feed which we will work on this year. Some of our events (the Beer Festival and the Fun Run also have their own facebook pages)

Sara then summarised all the contributions we have made to other organisations in the village, a total of £4,577 and said that we will continue to use any surplus funds to help improve the village. See attached Chairman's report for details of donations.

She stated that the SA has commitments next year for asset replacement and insurance, IT support, WW1 Remembrance Bench and Silent Soldier, help for young people in the village and for the Pavilion Committee.

Sara then thanked all the committee especially John & Pauline who are leaving this year and also all the volunteers who help on sub-committees and at events. She also thanked our sponsors for the Fun Run, Nick & Bidy West for their donations, Silchester House for the use of the field, the Spillanes & Fawcetts for storage facilities, the Parish Council, the Pavilion, Silchester School for the use of the hall for the Photographic Exhibition, the Calleva for their support, the Fairhursts for running the Quiz, the Village Hall Trustees and everyone else who supports us.

3. Treasurer's Report : David Westwood

David presented his report stating that the SA started the year with £20,611.68 and finished it with £19,642.92 having spent a total of £21,810.67. The full Treasurer's report is attached. In the course of the year, we have donated £3,077 and made capital purchases of £1,182.

In addition we have also donated a further £750 to the playground for the new train and £750 to the Pavilion to help fund disabled facilities but this expenditure will be shown in the accounts for next financial year.

Major items of expenditure this year have been

Public liability insurance of £1469

Capital equipment (Beer barrel racking, Field games, Lighting & safety items - £1182

PAT testing of electrical equipment - £152 (including equipment for the Village Hall, the Pavilion and the church PA system.

First Aider Course - £564

IT costs (website development and village email setup costs) - £785

WW1 memorial bench - £1,035

We have been very fortunate to benefit from donations of £2,500

David discussed the income from various events in comparison to last year's figures. The Fun Run gains in popularity each year and last year had record turnout. The committee have also been able to secure sponsorship for the

event. This year, for the first time, the Fun Run had more income than the Bonfire Night. Numbers were down quite a bit for the Bonfire Night from the huge turnout of 1600 last year but we still had 1300 on the night which we were very happy with. After having to turn people away from the Beer Festival due to sell out numbers in 2016, we perhaps didn't advertise so heavily this year and had 210 at the event. The hall was still quite full at times though and it was a great event.

The Quiz Night was packed this year and we had to stop taking bookings a week before the event.

The Roman talk attendance was a bit lower this year.

The Photographic exhibition, the Boundary Walk and the Daffodil planting day were funded by the Association and were all well attended and good social events in the village.

David went on to explain why we feel it is necessary to keep a cash reserve for the association due to the fact that some of the big events require considerable up-front expenditure and in the event of being cancelled could cause financial problems.

Stephen Langstaff asked if the Association was a charity. David replied that it is not registered due to the increased admin required. Stephen said that the rules have changed and if the turnover is less than £25k then it is not necessary to do a return. Dave said the committee would look into this again. It would mean we could take advantage of Gift Aid and also might open up new donations from people who will only give to a registered charity.

Steve Spillane asked if we have a policy for loaning equipment (eg gazebos) to individuals in the village. Dave replied that we have one gazebo that is available for loan and we will be purchasing a second one this year. The other commercial grade gazebos are available to other organisations provided that someone from the committee is available to supervise putting them up and down.

Dave thanked Howard Wilkinson for his donation of the chillers for the Beer Festival and Simon added his thanks to Howard for leading the Boundary Walk.

4. Election of Officers

The following committee members have indicated that they are prepared to stand for a further term – Sara Westwood, David Westwood, Lesley Brewin, Simon Brewin, Derek Fawcett, Hannah Monger, Andy Hartley, Amy Lucas, Sarah Roper.

John and Pauline Davis have resigned their positions on the committee.

We have had two nominations to the committee of Stephen Langstaff and Sarah Houseman

As there only 11 candidates, Sara asked for permission to hold a block election and asked for a proposer and seconder. Pete Hughes proposed and John Davis seconded. A show of hands was unanimously in favour of the election.

The executive officers will be decided at the first committee meeting next Tuesday.

5. A. O. B.

- 1) Bonfire Night – last year we were worried that the Bonfire Night would not go ahead but we are delighted that Jon Saltmarsh has volunteered to lead the Bonfire Team along with Amy Donnelly. We also have two new volunteers to help with the electrics – found through the community website “Next Door”
The date for Bonfire night has been confirmed with Silchester House and will be on Saturday 3rd November.
- 2) Local Organisations
Organisations in the village had been invited to send a representative to the AGM to keep us in touch with their activities and let us know if there are any ways we can help them.
This resulted in some interesting discussions and suggestions from the floor as to how different groups could work together and help each other. (see separate report)
- 3) Steve Spillane proposed a vote of thanks to the Silchester Association and the committee members for all the work done in the village

6. **The Date of the Next AGM:** April 2019

The meeting was closed at 9.50.