

Minutes of the Silchester Association 2019 AGM

7.30pm 12th April 2019

Silchester Village Hall, Club Room

Apologies for Absence – Rob Young, John & Pauline Davis, Amy Donnelly, Philip & Liz Pearce, Marsden and Nancy Jones

Present from the Committee – Simon Brewin, Lesley Brewin, David Westwood, Sara Westwood, Sarah Roper, Andy Hartley, Sarah Houseman, Stephen Langstaff

Present from the membership – Jan Hughes, Pete Hughes, Paul Roper, Steve Spillane, Irene Spillane, Ann-Marie Dalton, Dennis West, Nick West, Bidy West

1. Minutes of the last AGM.

The minutes of the last AGM on 13th April 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Pete Hughes - Seconded: Simon Brewin

Matters Arising

- After discussion at the last AGM, Sara Westwood explained why the SA decided not to register as a charity. The SA is an “unincorporated body”. It falls into this category as it has a constitution and a membership. It can be whatever its members want it to be and does not have to report to any official body. To be a registered charity, the organisation has to be run for “public benefit”. As the SA is run for the good of its members and the village, this does not qualify.

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

Sara reported that the Association has had a ‘testing’ year.

We had to find new storage facilities when the Fawcetts moved from Silchester Farm. We managed to recruit a new Bonfire Leader in Jon Saltmarsh and ran a successful Bonfire Night in spite of having to work around two weddings taking place over the weekend at Silchester House which restricted the time that was available for set-up. Several committee members were away for some of the events and we also had to recruit a new leader for the Boundary Walk for which Claire Payne stepped in on behalf of the Silchester Striders. Sadly there was torrential rain on the morning of the walk and only a few stalwart walkers took part.

Although fewer in number, the events mostly went off without problems and the committee was able to give the WW1 Remembrance bench to the village hall trustees in time for the Centenary Commemorations. The Association also made donations throughout the year to various village organisations in support of our objectives.

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 2,151 people and raising £6,774 for the benefit of the village.

Sara then summarised all the contributions we have made to other organisations in the village, a total of over £6,000 and said that we will continue to use any surplus funds to help improve the village. See attached Chairman's/Treasurer's report for details of donations.

Sara also talked about communication with the village. The new website has run smoothly and a monthly report is written for the Silchester magazine. We have also been using the facebook page for advertising events.

Sara then thanked all the committee 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, Jon Saltmarsh for stepping in to run the Bonfire Night, Silchester House for the use of the field, the Spillanes, the Fawcetts, Sophia Ruck and the Village Hall Trustees for storage facilities, the Pavilion for their support of the Fun Run, the Calleva Arms for their support of the Fun Run and the Beer Festival, the Fairhursts for running the Quiz, Mike Fulford for his annual talk, Chris Edwards for making the base for the remembrance bench and everyone else who supports us. Finally Sara said that both she and David are stepping down from the committee this year and she particularly thanked David for his unstinting work for the village over so many years.

3. Treasurer's Report : David Westwood

David presented his report stating that the SA started the year with £19,642.92 and finished it with £20,128.09 having spent a total of £22,086.61. The full Treasurer's report is attached. In the course of the year, we had an income of £22,571.78 and we have donated £6,251 to organisations in the village – a substantial increase from last year. We have made capital purchases of £515.

We have committed some funding for next year to a total of £2,350.

David also thanked Nick and Bidy West for their continuing support in the form of a substantial sum which is very much appreciated.

David noted that, once again, the Fun Run had overtaken Bonfire Night as the largest fund-raising event. This year we had 440 runners. Expenditure on the Fun Run was higher last year due to the introduction of chip-timing which greatly simplified the recording of results and times and will be used again this year. Much of the proceeds of the Fun Run is given to the Pavilion Section for maintenance of the sports field in recognition of all the help they give in running the event.

The Bonfire Night was attended by 1300 people and, in spite of some difficult logistical issues was enjoyed by all.

The Beer Festival was attended by 221 people and made slightly more than last year. The Quiz Night was a sell out with 83 people taking part and the hall full to capacity Professor Fulford's talk was very popular this year with more than 100 people in the hall

Attendance on the Boundary Walk was down this year mainly due to the appalling weather on the morning of the walk but 7 people made it round the boundary along with a few rather soggy dogs!

David then ran through the annual expenses of running the Association which amount to nearly £3,000 per year and explained some of the differences from last year.

- we now have a unit at Tadley Storage for large pieces of equipment
- insurance cost is lower as we have not included Bonfire Night as it is doubtful if this event will be run next year. The additional premium can be paid if it is decided to run the event
- expenditure on capital goods was lower this year. We bought some new outdoor tables for events, batteries for the radios and a new generator
- we had lower IT costs as last year included the fee for web development

4. Election of Officers

The following committee members have indicated that they are prepared to stand for a further term –Lesley Brewin, Simon Brewin, Hannah Monger, Andy Hartley, Amy Donnelly, Sarah Roper, Sarah Houseman, Stephen Langstaff

Sara and David Westwood have resigned their positions on the committee.

As there were only 8 candidates, Sara asked for permission to hold a block election and asked for a proposer and seconder. Jan Hughes proposed and Paul Roper seconded this. A show of hands was unanimously in favour of the election.

The executive officers will be decided at the first committee meeting later this month.

5. A. O. B.

1) Bonfire Night – Simon talked about concerns over Bonfire Night. It has been difficult to find someone in the village who is prepared to take on the running of this quite complex event. Two years ago he stepped in to run it and last year, Jon Saltmarsh took it on. However several other issues have come up this year - Silchester House is on the market so we may not have our usual venue, our fireworks company has gone into receivership and the expected introduction of tougher legislation regarding amateur run fireworks displays may make it harder to comply with.

2) Pete Hughes proposed a vote of thanks to the Silchester Association and the committee members for all the work done in the village which is really appreciated. Lesley also specifically thanked Sara and David Westwood for their huge contributions over many years and wished them well in their personal projects next year.

6. The Date of the Next AGM: April 2020

The meeting was closed at 9.00.