

## **Minutes of the Silchester Association 2024 AGM**

15th April 2024, 7.30pm - Silchester Village Hall, Club Room

**Present from the Committee** – Sarah Roper, Andy Hartley, Rebecca Flood, Stephen Langstaff, Marjorie Dean, Eve Baker, Steve Spillane, Richard Barnes.

**Present from the membership** – Ben Samuels-Brown, Mary Livingstone, Nick West, Bidy West, Paul Roper, Sue Richardson, Pauline Davis, Jan Hughes, Pete Hughes, Graham Wright, Clare Hartley, Irene Spillane, Yvonne McCardell, Eamon McCardell, Vanessa Saltmarsh, Ann-Marie Dalton, Paul Dalton, Liz Pearce, Richard Bakers, Paul Dean.

**Apologies for Absence** – Kate Wright, Lesley Brewin, Dennis West, Nina West, John Davis.

### **1. Chairman's Report: The Chairperson - Sarah Roper**

Sarah welcomed all attendees to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and expressed gratitude for their presence.

Sarah noted the success of the Fun Run and the King's Coronation, both of which were organised smoothly and enjoyed by the community.

Sarah discussed the decision to hand over the Fun Run event to the Sports Pavilion charity, highlighting its success at attracting running competitors locally and from afar and that in order to support the future development of the event it was decided that it would better align with the Sports Pavilion charity and that then they would fully benefit from the profits of the event. Sarah confirmed that last year's profits were already allocated to support the Sports Pavilion rebuilding.

Sarah went on to discuss the success and diverse participation of community events like the Boundary Walk, Quiz Night, Professor Fulford's talk and Rock and Roll Bingo. Sarah highlighted the joint effort with the Village Hall for the Burns Night event and noted the event's quick sell-out and the memorable, albeit chaotic, dancing.

In relation to the Beer Festival, Sarah acknowledged its lower turnout compared to previous years. She explained that the committee had identified external factors such as competing sports fixtures and recent village events contributing to decreased attendance. She also discussed internal factors affecting the event's profitability, such as the number of available beers and cost management and the ongoing efforts to address these issues.

Sarah then addressed the Association's evolving role amidst changes in fundraising dynamics and reaffirmed the commitment to fostering community engagement and rural amenities while acknowledging a shift in focus from grant distribution to community facilitation.

Sarah went on to express gratitude towards outgoing committee members, including Sally Thomas, and Lesley Brewin, for their significant contributions. Sarah specially recognised Lesley Brewin's longstanding dedication to the committee and regretted her absence at the meeting and that she was not able to give thanks in person.

Sarah then extended appreciation to all volunteers whose support has been instrumental in achieving the Association's objectives.

***Full Chairman's report available on the website.***

## **2. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Langstaff**

Stephen discussed the challenges faced during the pandemic and efforts made to restore confidence in 2022, he went on to say that 2023 was a successful year of events, despite external factors impacting funds.

Stephen highlighted several successful events held during the period, and confirmed that the surplus generated from these events amounted to approximately £2,000, which was significantly lower than previous years.

Operating costs for the association during the year totaled approximately £2,300, covering expenses such as insurance, storage rental, and the provision of the Silchester email and web system for community members. These costs were reduced from the previous year due to a lower insurance renewal and changes to storage costs.

Stephen detailed community donations made by Silchester Association totaling £3,495, distributed to various organisations including Silchester Sports Pavilion, Silchester Community Choir, Silchester Guides, Coffee Morning, and Calleva Volunteers.

Stephen acknowledged a year-on-year drop in surplus but expressed confidence in stabilising figures in the coming year. He assured attendees of a healthy financial position with £8,000 in the bank and no liabilities, despite events running at minimum surplus. He highlighted the importance of closely monitoring outgoings to maintain financial stability.

***Full Treasurer's report available on the website.***

## **3. Questions and/or Comments**

None.

## **4. Election of Officers**

The following committee members indicated that they are prepared to stand for a further term – Andy Hartley, Rebecca Flood, Stephen Langstaff, Marjorie Dean, Kate Wright, Eve Baker, Steve Spillane, Richard Barnes.

Ben Samuels-Brown and Mary Livingstone were elected as new members of the committee, bringing the total count to ten. It was noted that there are still two vacant positions available for anyone interested in joining.

Stephen Langstaff announced his decision to step down from his current position as treasurer but expressed his intention to remain a member of the committee.

It was decided that Richard Barnes would assume the role of Treasurer, taking over from Stephen Langstaff.

## **5. AOB**

Both versions of the reworded constitution have been available for review on the website for a year. No objections to adopting the new wording.

Irene Spillane 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.

## **6. The Date of the Next AGM: April 2025**

Meeting Close.