

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 10th AGM of the Friends of Long Sutton Church (FOLSC)

Held in Long Sutton School, Wednesday, 11th February, 2015

David Aitken welcomed members and guests but before commencing on the Agenda items, he announced Peter Ellis had sadly passed away earlier in the day after a long illness. Peter and Penny have been strong supporters of FOLSC over the years. The trustees and members present asked if our thanks could be recorded and our condolences passed on to Penny at this sad time.

Trustees in attendance: David Aitken (Chairman), Geoff Pringle (Secretary), Phil Godfrey (Treasurer), Tim Walford, Mike Brake, Tony Huggard, Caroline Astington, Kevin Robinson

Apologies: Helen Pyke, Richard & Gill Sargent, Andy & Mrs. Gough, Val Pringle, Jill Huggard, Jackie Godfrey.

The meeting was attended by 29 members including trustees.

1. 2014 AGM

David Aitken asked if any amendments were required for the Draft Minutes of the 2014 AGM which had been displayed on the FOLSC notice board as required. All those attending were happy and the minutes were duly signed off.

2. Chairman's Report

David thanked all members for attending in possibly the best turn out we have achieved at an AGM. Despite best endeavours not to clash with other events, we did so again with the Gardening and Art Clubs both holding meetings on the same evening. We will try to do better next year!

2014 saw FOLSC organise three excellent events which Geoff will report on in more detail later. With the increasing number of other fund raisers being organised in the village, it becomes harder to encourage villagers to attend which in turn restricts the opportunity of maximising profits. FOLSC members were asked to encourage others to join them on what generally proves to be an entertaining evening.

Roger Cox retired as PCC representative since last year and a vote of thanks was proposed for his dedicated work and for being an excellent liaison officer between the PCC and FOLSC. Tim Creegan has now taken on this role, has attended two FOLSC trustees meetings and is starting to learn how we operate!

David advised that two of our trustees were standing down this year. Tony Huggard has served for four years and he was thanked very much for all his input and the specific skills he brought to our meetings and events. Tony responded by saying he had very much enjoyed the time he had spent as a trustee. David then advised that "the father of the house" Tim Walford would also be retiring. Tim of course is the one remaining founding father and has been instrumental in establishing FOLSC and serving as a trustee over the last ten years. David specifically thanked Tim for his wise counsel during his time as Chairman and hoped that we could all count on his advice in the future. Thanks were also expressed to Janet for her help in many ways and it is hoped that Upton Bridge Farm may still provide a venue for subsequent FOLSC events. David concluded by thanking all FOLSC trustees' partners for their contribution to the cause and also to Val Pringle for her editorial work with the FOLSC Newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Phil Godfrey presented the audited FOLSC accounts for 2014. Interest on deposits amounted to £158.39, while income from subscriptions came to £1430. Donations added a further £340. Phil was delighted to report HMRC had paid out £1436.31 in gift aid but it was pointed out this was an exceptional amount due to one particularly large donation and we could not expect similar amounts in future years. The three fundraising events organised in 2014 delivered a profit of £2135.13 and a further £19.15 came as a result of donations made at last year's AGM. This delivered a total income for the year of £5518.18.

Expenditure totalled £3535.86 which was made up by payments to the PCC to cover the Quinquennial Report survey fees of £948.66 and for initial repairs as advised in the report amounting to £2512.80. Our other expenditure was for trays for use at FOLSC

events totalling £74.40. In subtracting expenditure from income, this delivered a net amount added to the balance sheet of £1983.12. This in turn means accumulated funds held on 31.12.14 amounting to £43,231.93. This is held partly in a Lloyds current account (£5602.40), a CCLA deposit account (£37,529.53) and £100 in petty cash. Phil commented on the amount of interest being received on deposit, particularly after comments made at last year's AGM. He had looked at various other options, including Credit Union but they would not be prepared to take more than £15,000 as a single deposit and it was felt splitting over a number of accounts would create unnecessary work in management. He also looked at Santander who were offering attractive schemes but they viewed us as a business account and as a result was non applicable. In summary, CCLA were not giving a bad return in the present climate but the situation would be monitored in case more attractive options became available.

Phil then spoke on current membership and announced we had attracted three new life members over the year, four annual members but had sadly lost three of our existing members. This resulted in a membership of 59 going into 2015. He reminded those attending that membership renewals fall due on the anniversary of members joining making it difficult to administer for those who do not pay by standing order. He asked if standing orders could be used in preference to other payment methods.

We had one member who pays by standing order called David Lawrence but unfortunately we have no contact details for him. Members attending were unable to shed any light on this but it was suggested Helen Pyke should be contacted to see if she could assist.

Phil concluded by thanking Bernard McTernan for very thorough auditing of our accounts and without submitting any charge for his services. Michael Brake proposed that the audited accounts should be officially adopted, this was seconded by Tim Walford and the vote was unanimously carried.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees

David Aitken advised that two trustees were retiring (as previously advised, namely Tim Walford and Tony Huggard). The remaining trustees were prepared to stand again if re-elected. He told the meeting that Jane Farenden and Jock Lyons were happy to stand. This was then put to those present and all were in agreement. Janet Walford therefore proposed the re-election of existing and new trustees. This was seconded by Roger Cox and all were duly elected. David then welcomed the two new trustees.

5. PCC Report

On behalf of Holy Trinity Church PCC, Tim thanked FOLSC for all the support given over the past few years and with his predecessor Roger Cox he feels fortunate to have such a strong group supporting our beautiful church.

He confirmed over the past year the PCC has been reimbursed by FOLSC to the order of £3,500 in total. £1,000 of this was to meet the Architect's fees for carrying out the Quinquennial Report and £2,500 for some of the building and maintenance works highlighted in the Report. In addition to works already carried out, further maintenance is required to comply with the Reports recommendations. The PCC will be obtaining builders' estimates in order to make good the other parts of the building and churchyard in need of repairs. The Trustees have kindly agreed that subject to satisfactory estimates being obtained, all the remaining essential works highlighted in the Report can be completed in the current year.

Tim concluded by saying it is because of brilliant fundraising and the prudence of the Trustees that significant works can be undertaken without too much stress on the FOLSC funds. Every year FOLSC organise first class fund raising events, so he encouraged members to spread the word in getting as many local people involved in supporting the church and FOLSC.

On his conclusion, Jane Twitty endorsed Tim's earlier comments and added her thanks to FOLSC and praised their good efforts for keeping the church in such an excellent state of repair.

6. Review of 2014 Events

Geoff summarised the 2014 programme which it was generally agreed had been another good year. In view of the number of fundraising/social events organised in the village (for which we should all be thankful), it has been decided we should concentrate on three fundraisers a year. In the spring we ran a "Quote/Unquote Team Challenge" which

proved very popular and was particularly well supported by teams from outside Long Sutton. The event was lifted out of the normal pub quiz category by Phil's exceptional audio/visual backup and it was felt that the ticket price provided excellent value and as we did not have to hire a professional act and we did our own catering, it delivered a profit of £921.

The Summer Party which was a Barn Dance was held at Upton Bridge Farm by kind permission of Tim & Janet Walford and provided huge entertainment for all ages. Due to other events on the same date, numbers were a little short and because we had to hire both the band and pay for external catering, profits were restricted to £350. In 2015 we propose to bring the date of the Summer Party forward by one week and are considering doing our own catering to try to redress these problems.

For the final outing of the year we were entertained by Paul Salvage who won "Stars in their Eyes" in 1992. Paul could certainly sing and entertain an audience although it was felt that some of his jokes were slightly close to the knuckle. It was generally agreed to be a fine end to the season and the evening delivered a healthy profit of £862.

7. **Preview of 2015 Programme**

Geoff advised that possibly for the first time ever the trustees had confirmed a full programme for the year. The first event to be held on the **Saturday, 18th April** will be a return visit of the **Sherborne Town Oompah Band** after a three year gap. They proved hugely entertaining on their last visit and it is hoped this will be an equally good evening that should appeal to all ages.

The **Summer Party** will be held a week earlier as mentioned on **Saturday, 11th July** by kind permission of Michael Brake. We will be entertained by the Long Sutton rock band The Reformers and the theme will be **Mods & Rockers**.

The final outing for 2015 will be a first for FOLSC. To be held on **Saturday, 24th October**, this will be a whodunit Murder Mystery set in Edwardian times and entitled **Murder at the Musicals**.

Geoff advised it became harder each year to come up with fresh ideas for FOLSC outings. He appealed to all members to keep their eyes and ears open. If anyone attends a good event or act that might be suitable for FOLSC, please advise a trustee and we will investigate.

He concluded by mentioning the Members Only event run in 2014. We had intended to repeat the visit to the hidden places of Wells Cathedral but sadly on the very day our tour was confirmed, a member of the public had a nasty accident and all tours were subsequently cancelled. Mike Brake organised instead of trip up the tower of our own church which was ably hosted by Malcolm Eastment and Tommy Tulke. This proved both informative and enjoyable although the visibility on the evening was not quite as good as anticipated. Geoff advised that Members Only events are designed as a thank you for the support of members and are not designed as profit makers. If there was a demand for further events, these can be arranged and the meeting expressed some interest in trying again for the Wells Cathedral tour. Some who had done this before mentioned you do need a head for heights!

8. **A.O.B.**

One comment from the floor concerning fund raising events was that they had a dual purpose of providing an entertaining evening as well as raising money for the fighting fund. Trustees should not be too upset if some events did not make quite as much profit as hoped as all the events in 2014 had proved thoroughly enjoyable to all who had attended.

Jess Bromfield endorsed Jane Twitty's comments and expressed her thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the trustees.

There being no more business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.00hrs.

Chairman

Secretary