

# **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 11th AGM of the Friends of Long Sutton Church (FOLSC)**

**Held in Long Sutton School, Wednesday, 24th February, 2016**

**Trustees in attendance:** David Aitken (Chairman), Geoff Pringle (Secretary), Phil Godfrey (Treasurer), Caroline Astington, Kevin Robinson

**Apologies:** Jane Farenden, Michael Brake, Jock Lyons, Jane Twitty, Roger & Rosie Cox, Sue Creggan

The meeting was attended by 25 members including trustees.

## **1. 2015 AGM**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved by all present. It was proposed by Tim Walford and seconded by John Hall that they be adopted and were duly signed off.

## **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not covered later.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

David Aitken opened his report by welcoming new members Liz and Rob Harley, Martin and Lesley Hawkins, Chris and Amanda Hope Kibble and Stephanie Sales. David asked if anyone attending knew member David Lawrence as we have no contact details for him. No one present was able to help.

David advised that whilst he had a lot he could report on he could not do so without duplicating what others would be saying later. He continued by thanking all members for supporting our events over the last year. He also thanked the Trustees, their spouses and the Officers for their hard work over the year. He commented particularly on the FOLSC News, our annual newsletter which he felt is getting better and better each year. David made a special thank you to Val Pringle who acted as Editor in Chief.

He continued by stating that the Trustees hoped to have a meeting with the current PCC in the not too distant future to clarify the FOLSC 'rules of engagement' set out in our constitution and the correct procedure for applying for funds, which have become somewhat blurred with the changes in PCC personnel and the passing of time.

In the last year FOLSC have not received any demands from the PCC for assistance with funding and whilst this may be good financially for us to build up the fighting fund further it does sometimes send out the wrong message to detractors and does not encourage members and villagers to support our fundraising events. It would therefore be nice to see we have done something positive to help the PCC within our remit.

David concluded his report by reminding members that we are trying to build up an accurate data base of email contact details so we can communicate efficiently, quickly and cheaply with all members. He stated that if any members were still receiving FOLSC News in hard copy format we still did not have their email contact details! He finished by saying we had a good programme of events planned for the 2016 season but more of that later in the meeting

## **4. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts**

Our treasurer Phil Godfrey presented a copy of the audited accounts to all members present and he then ran through the detail.

During the course of 2015, we received interest of £175.82 from our deposit account. We had £815 income from subscriptions and £495 of donations from a variety of sources. On the subject of donations Phil reported that sadly Mrs Elizabeth Hardy had sadly passed away. Her son, Mr Andrew Hardy has, however, agreed to continue making a donation on an on going basis. Phil asked for it to be minuted our thanks for his generosity.

We have not made a gift aid claim this year but he was pleased to report having received a VAT refund of £418.80 from the PCC due on expenditure from last year.

Our events in 2015 delivered an excellent combined profit to the bottom line of £2,581.59.

We were not asked for any contributions for work carried out in 2015 but we expect to have to cover the cost of some further work resulting from the 2014 Quinquennial Survey, so we can expect some significant spend later this year.

Overall for the year we have had an excess income over expenditure of £4,486.21. As a result, our total assets have gone up to £47,743.14 and this is made up of:-

Current Account	£ 4,937.79
Deposit Account	£42,705.35
Petty Cash	£100.00

Phil pointed out that the total is actually £25 more than the stated accumulated funds. This is because the TSB Bank set up a standing order for one member to be paid monthly instead of

annually! This has now been corrected and the liabilities line now shows the correct amount. Phil then asked to be minuted our thanks to Mr Bernard McTernan who once again, has kindly audited the accounts for us at no cost. That concluded the treasurer's report. The only question raised from the floor (by Mrs Janet Walford) related to the interest rates being obtained and if funds could be invested to better advantage via an ISA. Phil pointed out ISA's were for personal investment purposes only and were not applicable to our charities funds. Phil updated those attending on current FOLSC membership status. We gained 5 new members over the year. One existing member forgot to renew last year but we are pleased to hear he is re-joining in the current year. Oliver Barnham, a life member has moved away from the area. The net result is that we have 35 annual members and 28 life members bringing us up to 63 members in total. This is up 4 on last year and up from 47 in 2011 which is a very healthy rate of growth. We have again received a bank transfer from member David Lawrence but as mentioned in the Chairman's report we have no contact details for him. It was suggested the bank may be able to provide contact details. Phil promised to get in touch with the bank in case they can write on our behalf to try and establish direct contact with him and so keep him updated with FOLSC news. It was proposed by Tim Walford and seconded by Andy Gough that the accounts be adopted and signed off. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **5. Election of Officers and Trustees**

David Aitken confirmed the current trustees and officers were prepared to stand again for another year if re-elected. He did, however, advise those present that if any members would like to put their name forward for election, would they please do so and under those circumstances an existing member would subsequently stand down as it was felt 8 trustees and the PCC representative were an adequate number. No names were forthcoming. One question was raised from the floor by John Hall who asked who were the current trustees. David confirmed that these were David Aitken (Chairman), Phil Godfrey (treasurer), Geoff Pringle (secretary), Michael, Brake, Caroline Astington, Kevin Robinson, Jane Farenden and Jock Lyon. It was therefore proposed by John Hall and seconded by Jesse Bromfield that the existing trustees be re-elected en block. The meeting unanimously re-elected the above trustees.

## **6. PCC Report**

Tim Creegan, as Church Warden and the PCC representative on FOLSC presented the PCC report to the meeting. On behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity he started by thanking the committee for another year of tireless effort on behalf of the members of Friends of Long Sutton Church and went on to say that the excellent spring, summer and autumn FOLSC events are among the most enjoyable social occasions in the community and very successful fund raisers; he continued by thanking all who help run the events and to those who support by their attendance.

Tim then reported that our church building is wearing well. We are now over halfway through the current Quinquennial and it is time for us to complete any non-urgent works that the Church Architect highlighted as being needed to be carried out by 2018.

These works are mostly general maintenance, painting and decorating, but also include larger tasks summarised as:-

- Repair West Door and ironmongery at estimated cost of £1500.
- Mortar repairs to gargoyles and hunky punks over south aisle roof, estimated at £200 per man per day.
- Resurface the painted finish on tower roof at estimated cost of £1500.
- Point up water traps on string courses and like around tower estimated at £600 per man per day.

Tim anticipates sitting down with the Trustees at the next meeting to highlight and discuss the specific works required and then contacting appropriate builders and asking them to tender for the work.

Over the past year the PCC has continued to ensure the building is safe for all users and that it complies with and meets the regulations relating to electrics, fire and security.

Tim finished by mentioning the PCC are aiming to progress the installation of a lavatory within the church and at this moment they are awaiting a response from the Diocesan Architect to agree a date for an initial meeting.

In concluding the PCC report Tim advised that whilst 2015 had been a 'quiet' year it is anticipated 2016 will be rather more demanding and he would expect to have much more to report at next years AGM.

**7. Review of 2015 Events**

Geoff summarised the 2015 programme which it was generally agreed had been another good year. The spring Oompah night was a return visit of the Sherbarvarian Stompers and they entertained a full hall with their own brand of silliness. The event raised a creditable £758.

The annual Summer Party was a Mods & Rockers/1960's themed event. Due to the local farmers using their barns for the intended purpose, the event was held in the village hall. It was generally agreed the venue did not detract and was considerably easier to dress and for the band to play in so it was decided to run the 2016 summer party from the same venue. Local band "The Reformers" played two excellent sets. Geoff asked for a special vote of thanks to Martin Underwood for providing barbeque services at no charge which helped us to deliver an excellent profit of £754.

Our final outing was a Murder Mystery themed evening performed by the Taunton Thespians. The village hall was packed with many of the guests in costume and a thoroughly entertaining evening was had, complemented by excellent home grown catering. Geoff asked for a special vote of thanks to Jane Farenden and her team for a classic interpretation of Delia's beef bourguignon. This event delivered a fantastic profit of £1035 – an excellent way to finish the year. Geoff reminded those present that all the event write ups are featured on the village web site together with excellent photographs provided by Phil Godfrey, so please make use of this facility.

**8. Preview of 2016 Programme**

Our first outing is scheduled for Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April and is a Grand Mouse Race event. This is again a return visit after a number of years and Geoff encouraged the members to attend and guaranteed a hilarious evening. We already have all races sponsored by local businesses at £25 per race and it is hoped this should get us off to a really good start for 2016.

The summer party is to be held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July in the village hall (for reasons mentioned above) and will be a "Shorts & Shades" themed event. Local band "Twisted Vinyl" has been booked to perform for us and although he has not seen them perform himself Geoff advised they come with a great pedigree and an excellent female singer. This event will again be self catering (with thanks to Martin Underwood). John Hall suggested a best shorts (and knobbly knees) competition and this suggestion was taken on board.

Autumn Event. Geoff concluded by saying that this was still in the planning stage but the trustees were well aware our fund raisers should appeal to all members and villagers of all inclinations. It is currently hoped to book a local theatre group to perform for us and so build on the success of the murder mystery event – more details in due course.

**9. AOB**

A question was raised from the floor (John Hall) about whether trustees were doing enough to recruit new members. A suggestion was made that the trustees should be more proactive trying to recruit from those attending our events. Geoff mentioned the subtler approach adopted by trustees seemed to work quite well and it was generally agreed, it was better to encourage rather than coerce. He also pointed out that FOLSC had provided full membership details to the PCC and this should be going out to all new villagers with the "welcome pack". He requested from those attending that if they met new villagers or other possible recruits, a suggestion to become a member would be helpful and not to simply rely on trustees for recruitment purposes.

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

Chairman .....

Secretary .....