

MINUTES OF THE 9th AGM of the Friends of Long Sutton Church (FOLSC)

Held in Long Sutton School, Thursday, 27th February, 2014

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

Apologies: Tim & Janet Walford, Alwyn Jones, John and Tatianna Bradley, Jane Twitty, Val Pringle.

The meeting was attended by 26 members including trustees.

1. 2013 AGM

David Aitken asked if any amendments were required for the Draft Minutes of the 2013 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 confirmed 2013 had been a successful year for FOLSC with a generally good turn out at all our fund raising events. The quinquennial report which has recently been published had been read by all trustees and did not appear to throw up any major problems with the church. FOLSC are currently awaiting confirmation from the PCC as to the cost of the works which are required and we will do our best to assist within the terms of our remit. During 2013 the trustees arranged a members' only event to the hidden places of Wells Cathedral. Sadly the take up on this was almost non-existent and the outing had to be cancelled. It was generally agreed by those who had attended the same event when run before that it had been most interesting. If members would like this to be re-run in 2014, the trustees would be happy to arrange. David advised that FOLSC were still in the planning stage for 2014 fund raisers and that Geoff would advise current status later in the meeting. It was hoped that all members had received the 2013/14 FOLSC News (either by email or hard copy). David asked if it could be minuted special thanks to Val Pringle for acting as editor again this year. In addition, thanks are to be passed on to Christopher Dams for his interesting report highlighting facts about our church which many of us were not aware of. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking all trustees and their spouses for their continued support over the year and also to Phil Godfrey and Geoff Pringle for their contributions as officers.

3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Phil Godfrey confirmed our 2013 accounts had been audited and approved by Mr. Bernard McTernan. He asked if it could be minuted that the auditing had been done at no cost and this gesture was gratefully received. A copy of the audited accounts was circulated. It was noted that the deposit account with CCLA had generated £161.95 in interest, £645 was received in subscriptions and £275 received in donations. A total profit on fund raising events during the year amounted to £2540.88, giving a total income for the year of £3622.83. Our expenditure was fairly modest with £260.40 paid to the PCC for roof repairs and £91.18 to replace our wine glasses, so the FOLSC bar staff can now serve standard measures from a uniform sized glass! Phil advised therefore excess of income over expenditure delivered to the bottom line amounted to £3271.25. This resulted in accumulated funds held at the year end of £41,248.81, made up of £3,777.67 held on current account at Lloyds, £37,371.14 on deposit with CCLA and cash in hand of £100.

The Treasurer stated we would hope to be able to support the PCC when costs associated with the quinquennial survey were known and estimates were obtained for the works required. In conclusion he confirmed membership details by advising we have 26 life members and 29 annual members, which is an increase of 3 on 2012 numbers. In the current year we have signed up one new member so far with one more promised. Members were asked to assist in recruitment and membership forms can be provided when required.

In a question from the floor, Andy Gough queried the very poor rate of interest we were receiving from CCLA. Phil responded by agreeing the comment and advised the rate had currently gone down to 0.38%. Phil had looked elsewhere and had been quoted even worse rates of interest although Santander Bank could offer 0.75% with instant access and he recommended that it might be prudent to switch. Better rates could be obtained by depositing in a business bond but this would mean the cash was locked up for a full year with a penalty for withdrawing early. It was suggested that Credit Union might provide a more attractive home for deposited funds. A further question was asked regarding what access do we need for funds on deposit and perhaps monies could be split in various accounts to give variable rates with variable access.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees

David Aitken advised that the existing trustees were prepared to stand again if elected and asked those attending if they were happy for the trustees to be proposed for election en block. This suggestion was approved. He asked if any other members attending the meeting would be interested in standing but no names were put forward. Roger Cox therefore proposed the re-election of the current trustees, this was seconded by Andy Gough and the trustees were therefore duly re-elected.

5. PCC Report

Roger Cox spoke on behalf of the PCC. He confirmed the quinquennial survey had finally been received and a copy distributed and read by all FOLSC trustees. He reported that the church is generally in a good state of repair but some works are required on doors, windows, mortar and gargoyles. Estimates are currently being obtained and the PCC will be looking to FOLSC for their generosity in supporting these costs. In response to a question from the floor as to the possible monies involved, Roger indicated a provisional estimate in the region of £2000. The clock, he advised, had been serviced but to little effect! He has obtained a second opinion on the ongoing faults but these have not to date born any fruit. The PCC have looked into the possibility of automating the clock but this looked to be a very expensive exercise. The roof alarm system has been checked and the overall alarm is working well. Roger reported that the church is served by a large band of volunteers and he asked to pass on thanks to all who offered their assistance. Attendance at the Christmas services had been excellent and the second service in the school had been well attended and enjoyed by all and was a good sign of church life. Roger stated that this would be his last report on behalf of the PCC and after 5 years he was finally stepping down. He said it would not have been possible for him to carry out the role of church warden without the help of Rosie. David Aitken asked to be minuted many thanks for the exceptional work Roger had done on behalf of the church and the village as well as his excellent liaison with the FOLSC trustees.

6. Review of 2013 Events

Geoff summarised the 2013 programme which it was generally agreed had been an excellent year. Our first outing was on 20th April called "**Somerset Born and Somerset Bred – a Quiz with a twist.**" We had a very good turn out with the village hall being packed and fantastic profit of £1003 was made on the night. Geoff pointed out "home grown" events tended to be the most profitable as they did not require the heavy cost of hiring external entertainment.

Our **Caribbean Summer Party** was held by kind permission of Michael Brake in the Upton Grain Barn on Saturday, 20th July. We were fortunate in having weather to match our theme and we were royally entertained by Somerset's own West Indian Band "Red Hot Steel". Add a barbequed pig, Captain Jackie's rum punch and some fantastic costumes and we had a recipe for a night to be remembered. Profit delivered was £775.

Our final outing of 2013 held on 9th November was a **West Country Cabaret evening**. Devon's own stand up comedian Tank Sherman proved tremendous value and he was supported by Torquay based singer Lyndsey Collard who had a play list as long as your arm! We're told the laughter could be heard on the village green and a further £760 was delivered to the fighting fund.

Geoff then previewed the 2014 season. It is proving increasingly hard to come up with new ideas but the trustees are currently working to ensure this year we deliver 3 top quality events. Unfortunately, the opera group we had planned for the spring have had to cancel their tour, although we hope to have them here at another time. We therefore propose to hold a themed team event on Saturday, 17th May entitled "**Quote Unquote**". This will involve a slick audio/visual presentation involving quotations from literature, film, shows, sport, politics and much else besides. Our Summer Party is to be held on Saturday, 19th July and will be a **Barn Dance** at Upton Bridge Farm by kind permission of Tim and Janet Walford. It is many years since we held our last barn dance but those who attended will remember the fun we had. We have a skilled caller booked and even those of us with two left feet will have a night to remember. In the autumn we had hoped to welcome another theatre group and despite a confirmed booking, we have now found our stage size is not sufficient for their set and have therefore had to cancel the act. Please watch out for further publicity once we have an alternative event planned.

7. A.O.B.

Suggestions were raised from the floor with possible event ideas. Many remembered the "**What the Eck**" **Antiques Challenge** and wondered whether FOLSC could arrange a variation on the theme event. Others suggested another **Any Questions?** night. The point was made that for this to be a success we would need a top quality panel and ideally a known name or two to pull in the crowds. Some with even longer memories suggested a rehash of the **Mr and Mrs** event held at the village hall. It was promised the trustees would look at and consider all ideas. Geoff asked if all members could keep their eyes and ears open and if they did hear of any events or entertainers that might work for a FOLSC do, please get in touch with him.

Geoff updated the members with the final outcome of the FOLSC card project. A range of appropriate local art work was selected by the trustees to produce a pack of 5 cards and a suitable printer was found at a competitive price. Unfortunately it was then discovered that 3 of the 5 artists whose work had been selected had sold their pictures in the meantime and the printers were unable to work with the low resolution copies that were available. We were left therefore with no alternative but to cancel the project which was a shame after a significant amount of work had been put into it.

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

Chairman

Secretary