

MINUTES OF THE 8th AGM of the Friends of Long Sutton Church (FOLSC)

Held in Long Sutton School, Wednesday, 13th February, 2013

Trustees in attendance: David Aitken (Chairman), Geoff Pringle (Secretary), Mike Brake, Tony Huggard, Tim Walford
Apologies: Caroline Astington, Phil & Jackie Godfrey, Jane Twitty, Ron & Jackie Roberts, Richard & Jill Seargent, Gordon & Thea Miles, Jess Bromfield, Val Pringle, Janet Walford

The meeting was attended by 10 members. In answer to a question from the floor, Geoff confirmed a quorum had been reached.

1. 2012 AGM

David asked if any amendments were required for the Draft Minutes of the 2012 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 both trustees and members for their support in his first year as FOLSC chairman. He mentioned the trustees had selected an unfortunate date for the 2013 meeting, in that it fell on Ash Wednesday and also clashed with the Gardening Club and the Somerton Group of Artists meeting. The date would be carefully considered when deciding on the 2014 AGM when it is hoped we will have a somewhat larger turnout! It was confirmed 2012 had been a successful year for FOLSC as summarised in the FOLSC newsletter recently distributed to all members. FOLSC have been let off lightly with regard to requests from the PCC and expenditure is shown in the Treasurer's report. David made it clear that FOLSC had intended to make a contribution towards the organ fund but due to the generosity of villagers, the PCC advised that the purchase and installation was fully funded without FOLSC's assistance. This had therefore enabled the fighting fund to be increased over the year. David pointed out that 2013 will see the Quinquennial survey and it is hoped that this will not bring any unpleasant surprises. He concluded by thanking all the trustees and their spouses for their contributions in 2012.

3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Our Treasurer, Phil Godfrey was unavoidably overseas on business for the AGM but Geoff Pringle read out Phil's written report which was supported by the year end accounts as detailed below:-

“You can see that we received interest on our deposit account of £281.19, £740 in subscriptions and £275 of donations. We held three successful events in the year which, including last year's AGM, made an overall profit of £2570.52. The total income was therefore £3,866.71
Our grants to the PCC were £162.60 for electrical work and £458.59 for further roof repairs. Total grants were therefore £621.19.
During the year we received £3,245.52 more than we spent and this has gone into our reserves.
Our opening balance for the year was £34,732.04 and we finished the year with £37,977.56.
This is made up of £5668.37 in our current account, £32209.19 in our deposit account and we have £100 in cash.
A question was raised last year regarding the low level of interest received. At approximately 1% this is around the market rate for short notice deposit accounts. We could obtain a higher rate by taking out, for example, a one year bond but this would cause us problems if major repairs were needed at short notice. I will continue to monitor deposit rates to see if this can be improved.
The accounts have been kindly reviewed by Mr Bernard McTernan a retired chartered accountant from the village and certified as correct.
I regret that I have been unable to complete the Gift Aid claim due to the amount of information required by HMRC but is an urgent action that I will pursue. It would help if any standard or higher rate tax payers here could complete a Gift Aid form if you have not already done so.
Regarding membership - we have on record 27 life members, 20 family members and 6 single members making a total of 53 members which is an increase of 6 members since last year. We also have occasional donations from several villagers when they are able to do so.”

Questions were raised from the floor by Andy Goff firstly in regard to what is FOLSC's reserves policy vis a vis the Charity Commission. Seeing the Treasurer was not present, Geoff was unable to answer but Tim Walford advised it has always been FOLSC policy to continue to maximise our reserves so we can be best prepared for demands as and when they should occur. The quinquennial inspection being a case in point and were the tower to require repointing, a significant bill could be incurred. Tim also mentioned the importance of our local funds being held for attracting match funding. A further question was raised concerning the interest being received on deposits with CCLA and a suggestion was made that better rates could be obtained if part of the reserve was put on a longer term deposit. Clydesdale was mentioned. Andy Goff would be happy to provide further details. Tim Walford proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Michael Thomas and they were unanimously approved.

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 bloc. This suggestion was approved. He asked if any other members attending the meeting would be interested in standing. Andy Goff advised currently he was committed elsewhere but would consider at some time in the future. Roger Cox therefore proposed the re-election of the current trustees, this was seconded by Michael Thomas and the trustees were therefore duly elected.

5. PCC Report

Roger Cox spoke on behalf of the PCC and started by thanking the trustees for their considerable efforts in 2012. He advised that the roof is currently still leaking. One quote has been received to remedy this at a cost of £500 and he is awaiting a further quote. The only other ongoing problem that has occurred during the year is that the church clock, despite being serviced at a cost of £196, is still not keeping good time. He has therefore written a letter to the person who carried out the service to ask what could be done. A question was raised from the floor concerning what the PCC would spend a hypothetical grant on were this to be offered by FOLSC. David advised this was not how FOLSC allocated funds and our modus operandi was reactive rather than proactive.

6. Review of 2012 Events

Geoff summarised the 2012 programme which it was generally agreed had provided something for everyone. The first fund raiser was the My Generation Music Quiz which proved extremely entertaining with a capacity audience and delivered a profit in excess of £1000.

At the Fete FOLSC put on an Olympic themed display based around Tony Robinson's memorabilia and Kevin Robinson was on hand to answer questions.

The venue of our flagship Summer Party was changed at the 11th hour due to logistical and weather problems. Whilst turnout was slightly disappointing, a fantastic evening was had by all who attended and with Mr. Paul da Vinci performing for us.

The final fundraiser of 2012 was the Beer Fest Oompah Night under the direction of the Sherbarvarian Stompers. A fantastic evening was had by all and general feedback was that this was one of the best FOLSC events ever and a £938 profit was declared.

Geoff then previewed the 2013 season and was pleased to report the full programme for the year had now been finalised.

The first fundraiser in April will build on the success of our previous quiz events and will be a West Country themed evening entitled Somerset Born and Somerset Bred.

The Summer Party will be held at the Upton Grain Barn and will be a Caribbean themed evening and the services of the Blackdown Hill Steel Band "Red Hot Steel" have been secured.

The year will conclude with a cabaret event in the village hall featuring singer Lindsey Collard (who apparently does Doris Day better than Doris Day!), to be followed by the comedian Tank Sherman. An epic evening is promised.

7. A.O.B.

A question was raised from the floor concerning membership and although this had increased by 6 over the year to 53 members, this was considered not enough. Geoff asked whether the Welcome Pack was now being given out to new residents to the village. Roger advised it was currently away for printing but hoped this would be in use

very soon. FOLSC have provided details of the organisation which would be included in it as well as membership details. It was mentioned the outlying villages and particularly Knole were not well represented. Andy Goff agreed and was given a number of membership forms so as to encourage fellow villagers to join the fold. Some discussion on possible perks of membership or members only events followed and a possible gathering at the top of the tower would be well received or another visit to the unseen parts of Wells Cathedral. The trustees agreed to discuss further.

Geoff advised the FOLSC greeting card project continues (slowly) and a final submission of art work is currently awaited. It is hoped to have these finalised during the year and it was generally agreed these would be well received by both members and others.

Meeting closed at 20.20hrs.

Chairman

Secretary