

## The Henley Society

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Henley Society held in The River & Rowing Museum 7.30p.m. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Present:** The Lord Francis Phillimore (Vice President), Mr. Errol Facy (Chairman), Mr. Ian Giuliani (Vice Chairman), Nora Scanlon (Hon Secretary), Mr. David Whitehead (Chairman of Planning Committee), Mrs. Pauline Fleming (Events Organiser), Mrs. A Whitehead, Mrs. P. Johnston, Mr. David Johnston, Mrs. Joy Stubbs, Mrs. Ruth Gibson, Lt. Col. Peter Blaker, Mrs. Hildegard Blaker, Dr. Sheila Bell, Mrs Miriam Young, Mr. Chris Leeming, Mrs. Emma Abbott, Mr. David Clenshaw, Mrs. Lavinia Southern, Mr Peter Williams, Mrs Barbara Williams, Athley Cowling, Ms Ausonia Simonds, Mrs Rosalie Raymond, Mr Gary Hevel, Mrs Ann Hevel, Mr Ken Hirsh, Mr Tommy Bowlby, Mrs Valeria Alasia, Mr Alan O'Dair, Mrs Elizabeth O'Dair, Mr Paul Clayden, Mrs Clayden, Mr Richard Edwards, Mr Paul Henderson, Mr Martin Rasch, Mr M Ferguson, Mrs Hilary Bennett, Mr Geoff Probert, Mrs Madeleine Probert, Mr Matthew Kinghan, Ms Anna Jane Collins, Dr Jenny Copeland, Mr Steve Copeland and Mr Julian Brooks

**1. Chairman:** The Lord Phillimore took the chair for this meeting, welcomed all members who were in attendance and declared the meeting open.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from The Lord Camoys, Ms Sandra Moon, Mr Martin Cresswell, Mr Brian & Mrs Susan Triptree, Mrs Betty Russell Jones, Sir David Thomson, Mr Maurice Day, Mrs Jennifer Day, Mrs N Flett, Mrs Susan Adams, Mr. Alan Grimsley Mrs Nan Cuff, Mr. Boris Johnson, Mr John & Mrs Anne Twort, Captain & Mrs Norma Babbington, Mrs Elizabeth Mannings, Mr Charles & Mrs Val Catlin, Mrs Brenda Wright, Mr Robert & Mrs Carol Lewis, Mrs Diana Shand, Mr. Denis McCoy Mrs. Edith Gardiner, Mr. Ian Gardiner, Mr John & Mrs Ann Luker, Mrs. Audrey Ambrose, Mr. M Forrest, Mrs. A Forrest Mrs. Melba Pitt, Mr Peter & Mrs Ann Dayton and Lady Patricia Jones.

**3. Minutes:** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 on a proposal by Mr Richard Edwards & seconded by Mr. Ian Giuliani were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Chairman of the Society's Report:** Mr. Errol Facy, Chairman of the Society, welcomed members to the meeting. Mr. Facy told the members that in the past year the executive Committee and the sub planning committee had met regularly. The Society is sound financially and has a healthy membership. Mr Facy went on to say " The Henley Society has continued its work, commenced over 50 years ago to ensure the preservation of the town's historic buildings. The planning division of the Society, under the chairmanship of David Whitehead and his team, have met regularly to examine every planning application in Henley and have made comment to both the Town & District Councils.

On the Neighbourhood Plan the Society has held a watching brief and four members of the Society have taken part in the consultation process – David Whitehead, Ruth Gibson, Kester George and Tommy Bowlby.

We are pleased to have with us tonight Matthew Kinghan, who is lead consultant of Nexus planning, who is charged with sorting out the massive task of refining the plan and will be giving a talk following this meeting.

We have had three outside events this year aside from Christmas Lunch. Lacock Abbey and Bletchley Park were both much enjoyed. Locally we also enjoyed a visit to Fawley Railway. The

next event is on 18<sup>th</sup> June to Kenwood House and Bentley Priory. Kenwood House overlooks Hampstead Heath and its interior has been remodelled and extended by Robert Adam. Bentley Priory has had a 14.2 million pound restoration and was the wartime HQ of RAF fighter command both are well worth seeing.

Our thanks are due to Pauline Fleming who organises these events. But despite the quality of these events and the amount of work Pauline does the uptake by members is rather disappointing. Ideas and comments would be appreciated from members as to future events. Finally I would like to thank Secretary Nora Scanlon and Treasurer Sandra Moon who also produces the newsletter and the committee for their support and commitment over the year.”

**5. Treasurers Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Sandra Moon the Chairman read her report. “I am sorry once again that I cannot be with you but in 30 years of being treasurer of the Society this is only the second time I have missed it.

The accounts have been circulated to the end of December 2013 and we have made a small profit. This would have been much larger if we had received the Gift Aid back and this will show up in next years accounts. Our events on the whole have made a small profit except the trip to Lacock Abbey which was unfortunately undersubscribed. Pauline has a very hard job setting the price as this involves guessing how many people are going to a particular event.

We have at present 287 members and if you know of anyone interested in becoming a member please take an application form. If anyone who has not paid their subscription and hope to see me at the AGM please see the Secretary, Nora Scanlon who will pass it along to me.

If you have any questions I hope our Chairman can answer these if not please contact me and I will endeavour to answer them on my return.”

Chairman Erol Facy proposed the Treasurers Report for approval and was seconded by Geoff Probert.

**6. Report on Planning Matters:** Mr. David Whitehead Chairman of the Planning Committee read his report. The planning committee has considered a total number of 311 applications during the past year – the largest number in 10 years. As usual the majority of applications were for house extensions. The major issue facing the town at the present time is the Henley/Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan. Mr. Whitehead’s full report will appear in the Summer Newsletter. Mr Whitehead concluded by thanking other members of the Planning Committee and the Town Council for making available copies of their planning applications. Views and questions were then taken from the floor. As Matthew Kinghan was at the meeting to address the Neighbourhood Plan specifically most questions were reserved for him.

**7. Honorary Auditors;** The accounts have been audited by Mr. A.A. Faucheux, Chartered Accountant who was again proposed as Honorary Auditor by David Clenshaw and seconded by Hilary Bennett. Mr. Facy thanked the Auditors on behalf of the Society. The Treasurer had already made her thanks to the Auditor for the able way in which he deals with the accounts.

**8. To elect the Secretary & Treasurer for the ensuing year:**

Hon. Secretary: Nora Scanlon

Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Sandra Moon.

Proposer: Athley Cowling

Seconded: Chris Leeming

**9. To elect The Executive Committee for the ensuing year:**

The following were elected as Officers

Chairman : Mr. Errol Facy

Vice Chairman: Mr. Ian Giuliani

Mr. David Whitehead – Chairman of the Planning Sub. Committee

Mrs Pauline Fleming – Events Organiser  
Dr. Jenny Copeland  
Mr. David Clenshaw  
Mrs. Valarie Alasia

Proposer: Mr Geoff Probert  
Seconded: Mrs Ruth Gibson

David Clenshaw stated that he had not stood as a Committee member but represented the Town Council.

**12. To close the meeting.**

With the completion of the formal business, the meeting was brought to a close. Mr. Facy then introduced Mr. Matthew Kinghan of Nexus Planning, the lead consultant of the joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Kinghan explained the 'Localism Act' (2011) which introduced the concept of the Neighbourhood Plan to give local communities more say in local planning. After his talk Mr Kinghan answered questions which related to the building of housing in Henley, the possible housing sites and impact on the community regarding services and amenities. Refreshments were then served.