

Upwey Society

DRAFT 14/3/21

**Minutes of the 46th and 47th Annual General Meetings
10 March 2021 (by Zoom)**

Present:

Apologies:

1. President's Welcome

Eve Price welcomed the attendees to the meeting, noting that it was the AGM for two years combined, due to the pandemic. Among her remarks she made special note that the following members had sadly died since the last AGM:

2. Minutes of the 45th meeting and matters arising

Resolved: that the minutes were a true record of the meeting (proposer: Richard Willetts, seconder: Chris Emblen).

There were no matters arising.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair thanked committee members and past chairs for the support given to the Society.

2019

The committee met five times in the year, plus other informal meetings.

Events were: Wine Tasting, Quiz and Curry Night, Party in the Car Park, Open Gardens. (Thanks were due to the 23 householders who opened their gardens to the public.) The November bonfire was cancelled due to previous heavy rain having made it impossible to use the field. Leftover food was donated to a food bank.

2020

Everything in 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic except the Wine Challenge. Open Gardens went virtual with contributions to Weldmar Hospicecare. The Chair thanked those involved. There were two committee meetings in the year. One in the Church car park and one by Zoom.

Over both years we continued to comment on planning matters (to be covered in a later item) and the Chair thanked those involved. We also continued to move the Speed Indicator between its three sites.

The Chair thanked all committee members who had taken on extra roles. Four committee members have stood down, Jan Willment, Gee Sutton, Jackie

Faulkner and Pam Harper (Secretary). The Chair thanked them all for their hard work.

4. Secretary's Report

Tony King (acting Secretary) said that there was little to report. He had only recently taken over the post and we had done very little due to the pandemic. He has taken on the role temporarily and does not wish to remain secretary indefinitely, so volunteers would be welcome.

5. Treasurer's Report

Noting that the two years' accounts had been circulated, the treasurer mentioned a few highlights.

2019

Although we made good profits from the events that were held, the cancellation of the fireworks meant a deficit under that heading of about £1,400. Total income was about £2,200. Main expenses were insurance and the speed indicator. Total expenditure c £1,900 leaving £264.04 surplus for the year.

2020

Income from the wine challenge was about £560 and there were no other events. There were expenses associated with the cancelled AGM and insurance leading to a deficit for the year of £86. The balance in our accounts was about £7,600.

Resolved: that the accounts for 2019 and 2020 be accepted (proposer: John Simpson, seconder: Glenda Llewellyn).

6. Amendment to the Constitution and Rules

Proposed amendments to create a new post of Vice Chair (and reduce the number of ordinary committee members by one) had been circulated.

Resolved unanimously (a two thirds majority of those present being required) that the amendments be adopted (proposer: Dave Mountjoy, seconder: Maureen Carter).

7. Election of Officers and Committee

The President took the chair for the election of officers:

The following were elected as officers:

Chair: Mike Davis

Vice Chair: Tony King

Treasurer: Dave Mountjoy

The position of Secretary remains vacant.

The chair was handed back to Mike Davis who noted that the following existing members of the committee were prepared to stand: Chris Emblen, Helen Goodman, Jackie Johnson, Stuart Mead, Anne Prendergast, Wendy Sams, Christine Wells (Glenda Llewellyn having previously mentioned her willingness to remain a committee member and act as membership secretary). The Chair asked for other nominations and John Simpson put his name forward. The Chair suggested that those standing be elected en bloc.

Resolved that those listed above be elected to the committee (proposer: Sally Pinhey, seconder: Derek Cope).

8. Election of Accounts Examiner

The Chair had spoken to Vaughan Price who had indicated his willingness to continue as accounts examiner.

Resolved that Vaughan Price be elected accounts examiner (proposer: John Huggins, seconder: Stuart Mead).

9. Update on Planning Matters

Updates

Chris Emblen gave a report.

The position generally taken - to maintain balance- is to object only if the application contravenes planning rules/guidance. We haven't supported any applications.

The main issue over the two years was the rejection of the Chesterfield Place application at first instance and appeal. The Society played a small role. The real work was done by the committed residents who wisely employed a consultant.

We did not comment on Stottingway or Damyons Mead applications as we believed they fell within planning guidelines. We did not comment on Watery Lane and Icen Lane applications as they were outside our Upwey as defined.

As Chris was very busy at work, Tony King had dealt with some matters recently.

Tony reported on an application to have the track along the ridgeway east of Gould's Hill turned into a "byway open to all traffic". This was a long standing application previously rejected by the Council but needing to be reconsidered following a decision of the Supreme Court. It was unlikely to succeed.

Tony also reported on the initial progress by Weymouth Town Council in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. He has been attending the initial Zoom meetings. It would be a very long process, taking several years. A Steering Committee has been formed which does not include a member from the "villages" as originally envisaged by the Council and their advisers. However there would be sub groups, and local meetings of the community and Upwey will not be forgotten.

A question was asked about developments at the Mazda garage site. Sheonagh Ravensdale reported a conversation with a local resident indicating that he had bought part of the forecourt for commercial purposes and the the rest was up for auction.

There was a discussion about the line taken on planning (as described by Chris above) and how that fitted with the object stated in the constitution "To maintain and improve the amenity and special character of the Village of Upwey and its surroundings".

Application for Agricultural Building North of Elwell Street

The Chair said that there would be a special committee meeting on Friday 12 March to decide how the Society should respond, and asked for any comments from members present to be sent to him or Tony in advance of that meeting.

It was agreed that we would circulate the membership with details of the application, suggesting that they should read it and comment if they wished.

10. Future Events

The Chair noted that Open Gardens could not go ahead in June (restrictions may still be in place, and some garden openers had said they were uncomfortable with the idea at present), though we intend to consult the garden openers on running the event at a later date.

11. Collection of subscriptions for 2020 and 2021

Resolved that, given the lack of activity, subscriptions would not be collected for 2020 or 2021 (proposer: Stuart Mead, seconder: Wendy Sams).

12. Use of Retained Funds

There was about £4,000 available for use. Ideas for future discussion by the Committee were:

- Seating around the village, particularly since there was more local walking;
- Dog poo bins and litter bins (the latter particularly by the lay-by before the relief road);
- Improvement of Gould's bottom (as more useful picnic space with parking, as a community orchard, as a wildlife reserve). A possible meeting there on 22 June was suggested.

It was also suggested that we should go out to the wider community to ask for views (which would have the side effect of publicising the Society).

13. Future of the Silent Soldier

A few written comments were submitted to the effect that it should remain where it was. Other views were that the British Legion had intended that they should remain until the last day of 1918, and that other military contacts took the view that they were intended for a specific memorial, not to be permanent. The Chair said the comments would be noted for the Committee to consider.

14. Any Other Business

No items had been notified in advance. The question of traffic speed in Stottingway Street was raised. Chris Emblen noted that Tony Freeman in Watery Lane had put in a proposal for a 20mph limit and traffic calming which might include Stottingway Street. The Chair undertook to speak to him about progress.

15. Next Meeting

10 March 2022, in the Old School Hall.