

# **PITSTONE & IVINGHOE MUSEUM SOCIETY**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 AT PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM AT 20.00**

### **1. Present:-**

Treasurer – John Youngs, Museum Manager & Vice Chairman - Norman Groom, Secretary - Peter Keeley  
Committee Members and Trustees – Sue Lipscomb, Dennis Trebble  
23 members

### **2. Apologies were received from:-**

David Goseltine (Chairman), Anne Ball (Publicity Secretary), Sandra Barnard (Computer Records Officer and Newsletter Editor), Bill Barnard (Membership Secretary), Jean Treacher, John Byrons, Les Laing, and Sheila Wood

### **3. Minutes of the AGM (29<sup>th</sup> November 2009)**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Dennis Trebble, seconded by Geoff Travis and carried.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were none.

### **5. Chairman's Report – David Goseltine**

There was none. At this point those present were informed that David Goseltine had had major heart surgery carried out and was making good progress but now needed to regain his strength. He would not be standing as Chairman this time but would still be happy to continue as a committee member.

### **6. Treasurer's Report – John Youngs**

Copies of the accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 were available at the meeting.

The final accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 show a surplus of £1314 after capitalising the cost of installing Mains water of £2341. This is compared to the prior year's surplus of £2222 and to a budgeted surplus of £530.

On the positive side income was substantially up against last year and budget mainly due to the record Open Day takings as you can see in the Income and Expenditure Account. Plus we were fortunate to receive a legacy of £1000 from Mr. H. G. Williamson's estate and £400 from the Diago Foundation thanks to Shirley and Jo Marling.

During the year we made what are for us substantial investments in projects, namely the rebuild of the tractor shed and the new kitchen area, plus extension and improvements to the Model Railway.

All of these are improvements rather than additions so we absorbed the cost. It is your Executive Committee's opinion that our duty is to ensure the growth of the Museum and the protection of its assets not to accumulate funds. All other costs were close to budget and to the prior year.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that there was some lack of control on project spend last year so we will ensure that budgeting and estimating of the costs of projects is given more attention in future as far as we are able with our limited resources.

The balance sheet remains healthy with reserves at £41,050 and cash of £27928. Unfortunately interest income on our cash is pitiful at 0.1%. Unfortunately we are considered to be a business account so I have not been able to find a better rate which makes it worth changing to another bank. I have looked at National Savings but most investments are longer term, a commitment which we don't consider prudent.

There were no questions on the accounts.

John Childs proposed, Mack Speed seconded, that the accounts be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

### **7. Sub Committee Reports**

#### **• Museum Report – Peter Keeley**

Peter reminded us of his regular reports in every newsletter. In addition to this he explained that there is some discrepancy regarding the lease of the new area of land given by the National Trust. This matter is not yet resolved. He also reported that all the Gift Aid Forms have been processed and we have been able to claim tax relief on these. £1039 will be returned to the Society.

Barbara Barber gave a vote of thanks to Peter from the floor.

- **Programme – Sue Lipscomb**

This year I believed that I had booked an interesting range of topics for our monthly meetings but I began to wonder whether the membership thought along the same lines when I worked out the average attendance, as I usually do in readiness for the AGM. In spite of the fact that we had 50 people attending our ever popular Cheese, Wine and Antiques in July the average attendance was a disappointing 23 people which compares very unfavourably with the figure of 29 last year.

It is interesting to note that the most popular talks were those about the Ashridge Estate by Graeme Cannon and Chair Making in the Chilterns by Dr Catherine Grigg. There were many very good speakers such as Lydia Carmichael who spoke from her own personal experience about her life in a Foundling Hospital; what a pity only 22 people were here to enjoy that particular talk!

I will continue to do my very best to provide a variety of interesting speakers for our members' entertainment and interest and will maintain the brief of concentrating on local history first and foremost with talks about general historical topics and our local environment as other possibilities.

Please do remember that I am always ready to listen to your ideas for good speakers and interesting subject matter for the forthcoming year.

Once again, I would like to thank Rob and Barbara Barber who are always here when I arrive and serve the tea and coffee at every meeting. And finally let me remind you of next month's talk by Patty Briggs entitled 'Basically Bats'. This will replace our usual social meeting which we have had for some time in December. Do let me know what you think about this change!

- **Publicity – Anne Ball**

Publicity Secretary Anne Ball was unable to attend but handed her report to Peter who read it.

Again we produced some 6000 leaflets this year although they were a little late in arriving. We hope to get the printing done earlier for next season and get them distributed as widely as possible. We would welcome any new sources for distribution within about a 20 mile radius of the Museum.

The Bucks Herald has been very supportive this season and we continue to contact all local newspapers. We also advise all local radio stations ahead of opening days and I understand that John Childs and John Young continue to deal with a couple of radio stations via the internet. Although I still write to several other radio stations, I'm not sure that mention is made of our open days. I will try to ring these radio stations during the winter but I understand that they get very many requests these days.

- **Membership Report – Bill Barnard**

A summary of this report was read by Peter Keeley.

The current membership stands at 152 people. This breaks down as 56 single members and 48 couples. This includes 3 Honorary Members and 3 Life Members. This is an increase of 9 people over last year, with new members outweighing the 11 people who have not renewed their membership yet this year.

I work closely with Sandra to produce mailing lists for the newsletter. We send out 11 of our newsletters to various organisations such as Aylesbury Library, the local press and contacts in other organisations.

**Could I ask members to please complete a membership form with your payments next year?**

I had to fill in many of the forms myself again this year, and I had to assume that address and email details had not changed from last year. Many of you filled in the additional Gift Aid form this year, but did not do a membership form. Perhaps we should consider combining the 2 forms into one form next year.

I hope you all like the colourful membership cards I produce.

- **Computer Records Officer and Newsletter Editor– Sandra Barnard**

I am not willing to stand as archivist any more but I will continue to look after the Museum computer records (including 'Catalist') and photographs as before. I am intending to instruct Dennis in the use of 'Catalist' when he is free in order to increase our number of staff literate in this program.

I will continue to offer my services as editor of the newsletter. I must stress here we need more people to contribute to this.

## **8. Election of officers and committee members**

One nomination had been received for the post of Chairman.

- **Officers**

Chairman – John Childs was nominated.

This was proposed by Peter Keeley, seconded by Rob Barber and the meeting agreed.

Vice Chairman – Norman Groom

This was proposed by John Youngs, seconded by Dennis Trebble and the meeting agreed.

Treasurer – John Youngs

This was proposed by Norman Groom, seconded by John Childs and the meeting agreed.

Secretary – Peter Keeley

This was proposed by Geoff Travis, seconded by Barbara Barber and the meeting agreed.

- **Committee posts**

The committee                      Dennis Trebble (Deputy Museum Manager)  
    David Goseltine  
    Anne Ball                      (Publicity Secretary)  
    Sue Lipscomb                (Programme Secretary)

These people were voted in en bloc. This was proposed by Peter Keeley and seconded by Rob Barber and the meeting agreed.

- **Non-committee posts**

Museum Site Manager --	John Childs
Membership secretary -	Bill Barnard
Computer Records Officer –	Sandra Barnard
Trading Secretary –	Jeanette Wallis
Newsletter Editor –	Sandra Barnard
Craft Co-ordinators –	Brenda Grace and Margaret Elliott
Museum Manager -	Norman Groom
Deputy Museum Manager -	Dennis Trebble
Publicity Secretary -	Anne Ball
Programme Secretary -	Sue Lipscomb
Events Manager -	Bernard Warden
Archivist -	

There was a request for more volunteers as committee members but there was no response. No-one volunteered to become the archivist.

## **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Roy Geary had said he is willing to continue with this position. This was agreed unanimously. John Childs chaired the meeting from this point.

## **10. Any other business**

- Barbara Barber told the meeting that Waitrose would often give money to local charities and in fact gives £1000 each month. The details of this will be given to John Youngs.
- Norman Groom explained that this year 6,000 leaflets had been printed and that many were left over. He gave a plea for those who could deliver them to a range of venues to come forward next year.
- Geoff Travis suggested that local W.I.'s could take some leaflets for us.
- We were told that the new website address would be either [www.pitstonegreenmuseum.co.uk](http://www.pitstonegreenmuseum.co.uk) or [www.pitstonegreenmuseum.com](http://www.pitstonegreenmuseum.com) or [www.pitstonegreenmuseum.gov.uk](http://www.pitstonegreenmuseum.gov.uk)
- Norman Groom gave a vote of thanks to Sandra Barnard for her untiring work for the Society
- John Childs gave a vote of thanks to the ladies in the kitchen
- Those attending the meeting were reminded of our need for more members of the committee and they were told that people could be co-opted onto the committee at any time if they changed their mind.
- Barbara Barber made the suggestion that we should have more open days during the year. Norman Groom responded by suggesting the last Sunday in July. Barbara preferred the second Saturday in October. It was agreed that this should be discussed in committee.
- It was raised that we should advertise the meeting room as a venue for conferences.
- Likewise the barn and kitchen could be advertised as a venue for Weddings or parties.

The meeting closed at 20:45.

The AGM next year will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 8p.m. in the meeting room at the Museum