

# **PITSTONE & IVINGHOE MUSEUM SOCIETY**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM AT 19.30pm**

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

Chairman and Museum Site Manager – John Childs, Museum Manager and Vice Chairman - Norman Groom, Treasurer – John Youngs, Archivist - Dennis Trebble, Publicity Secretary - Anne Ball, Membership Secretary and Technical Advisor – Bill Barnard, Newsletter Editor and Computer Records Officer – Sandra Barnard  
Plus 19 additional members of PIMS

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

Les Laing, Hilda Donovan, Jean Morris, Peter Keeley, Paul Chapman and Sue Lipscomb

### **3. Minutes of the AGM (17<sup>th</sup> November 2011)**

These were accepted without comment. The approval of the minutes was proposed by Tony Sargeant, seconded by Norman Groom and carried.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were none.

### **5. Chairman's Report – John Childs**

The chairman alluded to the succession of cold and miserable open days experienced this year and to the fact that we had been affected by competition from both the Royal Jubilee celebrations and the London Olympic Games. The extra open day held in October was deemed successful and worth repeating. The start of the year saw problems with the partial collapse of the Big Barn roof and this was dealt with by the volunteer work force. Although this experience was difficult, the silver lining was that we purchased a new set of mobile scaffolding which would otherwise not have happened. The old Green Shed has been moved and refurbished, whilst a new carpenter's workshop has been provided. A major undertaking has been the restoration of the reaper/binder in the collection and it is hoped, this coming year, to provide it with some motive power for display. The Grain Barn roof lights are in need of repair and some more of our farm machinery is earmarked for blasting and painting. Whilst delivering this summary the chairman paid thanks to the newsletter Museum Reports and thanked the various groups of volunteers for their efforts over the last year.

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

Copies of the accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 were available at the meeting. The treasurer took the meeting through the salient points of the published accounts pointing out the differences in figures with those of the previous financial year. He made comment about the extra parcel of land gained by the museum from the National Trust and the difficulties this had entailed – particularly by our secretary. It was indicated that the rent that is annually paid to the N.T. varies in terms of our income and is paid retrospectively – this can cause rent figures to "wobble" from year to year. The balance sheet revealed a very healthy situation for an organisation our size. Questions were invited from the floor and then approval of the accounts were proposed by Bill Barnard, seconded by Rob Barber and unanimously approved.

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

- **Museum Report**

Peter Keeley's latest Museum Report was within the latest Newsletter. Useful articles continue to be submitted for the newsletter and further efforts were encouraged. Computer records are in the process of a major update in terms of the accuracy of data held on the artefacts possessed by the museum. A brief plea was made for members to come forward and help in some capacity on open days.

- **Programme**

There was no report.

- **Publicity – Anne Ball**

Anne referred to leaflet distribution ahead of the first open day and commended the standard of production of the leaflet. Local newspapers and magazines continue to be contacted – with variable results. The placing of advertising boards in the week prior to open days seems to be very successful as a strategy.

- **Membership Report – Bill Barnard**

Bill reported that membership currently stands at 154 persons. Annual variation is in the order of loss of ten members but this is offset by the numbers of new members gained.

**Membership Fees** – the meeting approved the fees for 2012-2013 at £10 for a single and £15 for a couple  
Proposed by Norman Groom and seconded by Rob Barber.

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

- **Officers**

Chairman – John Childs

Vice Chairman – Norman Groom

Treasurer – John Youngs

Secretary – Peter Keeley

The above officers all stood down and were re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Dennis Treble and seconded by Norman Groom

- **Other Committee Members**

The other Committee Members all stood down and were re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Jean de Selincourt and seconded by Rob Barber.

Paul Chapman's election as a new committee member was proposed by Sandra Barnard and seconded by Nigel Thompson and was carried unanimously.

- **Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner**

Tony Sargeant was proposed by Rob Barber and seconded by Barbra Barber. This was carried.

## **9. Any other business**

3 Items were discussed

- Geoff Evans produced his Structural Report on the condition of the Big Barn. He had been asked to do this in light of his previous professional experience in the field and in light of his findings he told the meeting that he strongly recommended a planned maintenance programme on a year by year basis and thought that the yearly budget should reflect this commitment. This was generally thought to be a good suggestion and in the course of discussion the manager said that the tiles over the Mill Barn were on the point of slipping and would also need attention over the next year.
- Bill Barnard told us that he had been given permission by the British Film Institute to show a selection of their films on open days.
- The chairman referred to the secretary's current indisposition and asked it to be recorded that the meeting pass on its good wishes and hope for a speedy recovery

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.