

PITSTONE AND IVINGHOE MUSEUM SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2019 AT PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM AT 19.30

1. Apologies were received from : Dennis Trebble, John Childs
2. Those present
Treasurer – John Youngs
Museum manager – Pete Farrar
Other Committee members – Leslie Herriott, Simon Heaton, John Powell, Allen Fairbrother, Rob Henry, Sue Lipscomb, Pat Kerry
Plus 32 additional members of PIMS
3. Minutes of the AGM 22/11/18
The Treasurer reminded the meeting of the pertinent points, including the several raised as part of AOB. It was proposed by Rob Henry and seconded by Pat Kerry that these minutes were a true record of the meeting and this was carried unanimously. They were signed by the Museum Manager.
4. Matters Arising
The following issues were discussed and resolved :
Start and finish times of Open Days : It was proposed that the start time is 10:30am and finish at 16:30. This was proposed by Rob Henry and seconded by Pat Kerry
5. Chairman's report
This has been incorporated in the Manager's report, who, as deputy chairman has delivered his report(s) under item 7 of this agenda.
6. Treasurer's report delivered by John Youngs
I attach the final financial results for the year ended 31.03.2019. The surplus for the year has increased to £10,542, £190 up on the draft figures I presented at the last meeting. The increase is interest received which is reflected in changes to the Balance Sheet. This was further reviewed at the meeting.
I also attach provisional results for the quarter ending 30.06.2019. The Income & Expenditure Account shows a surplus of £13,046. This figure is very provisional but it does include the excellent Open days of Easter and the two in May. There is nothing in particular re income or expenditure to call your attention to other than the two Capital purchases. The budget has been updated to include all the items we discussed at our last meeting except painting. The Balance Sheet shows cash resources of £112k so we I think we can afford to repair the Silo roof.
7. Museum Report delivered by Pete Farrar

As 2019 rushes to its' conclusion we can all pat ourselves on the back for a very successful year in all aspects of life at Pitstone Green Museum. We started the season with a classic car meeting made up mostly of 68 Model T Fords and about 25 Morgans and were given some positive feedback about all aspects of the event which we are hoping to repeat next year with a different group. Our regular open days were well attended and again there were a lot of good comments with many people taking the time to communicate their thanks to us by way of email, Facebook and Trip Advisor .

We have a full committee where we can discuss the running of the museum, with many people taking on specific tasks to spread the management duties more widely. Our brilliant electricians are making huge stride in rewiring the old buildings and the Big Barn is now lit to everyone's satisfaction. We are aiming to do something about installing security cameras round the site to discourage incursion by people with criminal or antisocial intentions.

We have decided to go ahead with the replacement of the Silo roofs and we have cut the door aperture in one of the newer grain bins to accommodate the old mill that used to live in the cart sheds. One of our members, Margaret Fosket has donated some vehicles which belonged to her late father, Fred, for the old garage exhibit. We are now the proud owners of a 1930s racing bike, a cycle master moped, a BSA Bantam D1 and a 1931 Austin 7. We are very grateful to Margaret and her partner Dennis for their generosity.

By the start of next season, we should have replaced the gates and fence at the front of our orchard and installed a splendid new sign giving the site a more welcoming feel.

We are also going to install two portable toilets on the site to ease congestion in the reception area when we are busy. All winter projects are influenced by weather conditions so we hope for a slightly drier few months than we have had recently.

A final thank you to you all for your hard work and dedication and for your support throughout the year with a typical comment that might have come from any of my teachers at Watford Boys Grammar School - "has ability but could do better"

Programme report delivered by Pete Farrar

The programme for next year is complete except that we are still awaiting confirmation from Tring Auctions to confirm the antiques evening and we are still trying to confirm details of the visit to The Paper Mill.

Don't forget that the first 4 meetings of the year (Jan. - April) will be in the afternoons with the talk starting at 2.30PM, everything else will remain unchanged.

The first talk of the year will be Graham Laurie talking about Roald Dahl's war, covering his life in the RAF and his subsequent rise to literary fame. He started out working for an oil company and went on to be a fighter pilot and managed to crash in the Libyan desert. Come and learn all about the fascinating life of a very talented man.

Publicity report delivered by Pete Farrar

Publicity this year has followed the same format as 2018 except that we had two lots of leaflets printed, the first covering the 9 open days of 2019, the second, (midway through the season) covering the remaining Open Days plus the first 3 of 2020. This was an effort to save having to throw away out of date leaflets at the end of the season. It would have been a good idea if it were not for our useless government changing the date of the first mayday Bank Holiday from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May at the last minute ! So we will be having our first **Friday** Bank Holiday Open Day in 2020.

I'm still looking forward to someone coming forward to do some more Internet promotion of the museum and it's open days as I think that's the way forward and anything that reduces the burden of putting out and collecting, in excess of twenty road signs, nine times a year is to be welcomed !

I was recently contacted by a company that does a kind of google street maps of your premises, so you can look on the website and do a walk round the museum and go into all the rooms, unfortunately such a system is way outside what we could justify at the moment but it would be worth bearing in mind for the future.

8. Membership report delivered by Bill Barnard
We have 176 members this year compared with 170 at this time last year.
9. To consider any motions brought forward by the membership

Volunteer members (those who work the equivalent of at least 20 days per year). It was proposed that this category of membership should include the catering staff.
Proposed by Roy Smith, seconded by Jill Baxter and accepted by the meeting.

10. Election of officers and committee members

The current officers of the society, as listed under item 2 above agreed to continue. Also, John Childs has agreed to continue as Charman and Pete Farrar agreed to continue in his additional post as vice chairman. Dennis Trebble has agreed to continue as Secretary.

Proposed by Bill Barnard, seconded by Tony Baxter. Accepted unanimously.

EC members, also listed in item 2 above, agreed to continue in post.

Proposed by Brian Davis, seconded by Rob Barber. Accepted unanimously

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Last year we were very fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mrs P Griffiths and she has kindly agreed to continue in this role. Proposed by John Powell and seconded by Bill Barnard. Accepted unanimously.

14. A.O.B

- Handouts for children at open days : Tony Baxter to look into the format of the handouts
- Parking Issues on Open Days : Classic car owners (max 2 persons per car) are given a raffle ticket when they arrive to prove entry without charge. If classic car owners kindly decide to pay the entry fee the fees paid are to be treated as donations.
- Stall Holders to sign in on Open Days via Jill Baxter, and to abide by speed restrictions when driving vehicles on site to unload and load. "5 MPH" sign to be installed to deter speeding.
- Volunteers to sign in / out on Open Days
- It was queried if members of the public were entering the museum on Open Days via the footpath from the windmill without paying. There was no evidence to suggest this was happening.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm