

SAFFRON WALDEN INITIATIVE LIMITED
A company limited by guarantee. Registered Number 03340325

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX
AT 8PM ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2011**

The following Members present at the meeting signed the attendance sheet:

Joanna Appleby, Collette Biggs, Ginny Eley, Paul Garland, Maggie Garland, Beatrice Goldie, Chris Hingston, Val Hollins, Ros Hyde, Chris Knight, Helen Larsen, Peter Long, Lindsey Penny, Judith Plaister, Michael Plaister, Len Pole, Jill Porter, Jane Ready, John Ready, Anne Richings, Peter Riding, Judith Rodden, Judith Rowland, Peter Sanders, Donna Sharp, Anthony Skipper, Jennifer Taylor, Roger Taylor, Nigel Weaver, Robert Welham, Barbara Wilcox, Kenneth Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from:

Pamela Bray, Elizabeth Charles, Charles Goldie, Gertrud Hill, Ray Jones, Stephen Jones, Jane Knight, Andy Long, Brian Porter, Sue Rooney, Shelagh Skipper, Sue Ullstein, Anthony Woods, Louise Woods

Peter Riding was in the Chair and a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th November 2010

On the proposal of Chris Knight and seconded by Nigel Weaver it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 26th November 2010 were a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

3. Chairman's Report

Your Board met seven times in the last 12 months and the other Directors have been Ginny Eley, Chris Hingston, Stephen Jones, Helen Larsen, John Ready and Barbara Wilcox. Our Treasurer has been Robert Welham. Membership is down from 202 last year to 177 this year. This suggests that we will need to do more to promote ourselves as a membership organisation next year.

In March we were advised by our auditors that we should bring our Company Articles of Association up to date to comply with the 2006 Companies Act. We sent all the members by post a resolution to this effect and this was signed by 116 members which was a majority at that date. The new Articles of Association can be found on the home page of the Initiative's website at www.swinitiative.org

Events we have organised specifically for members this year have been a visit to the St Mary's Bell Ringers; a talk on Quakers in Saffron Walden; a visit behind the scenes at the Fitzwilliam Museum; a visit to the Curwen Studio and Print Centre; a visit to Hinxton Watermill; a guided tour in Hatfield Forest; a visit to Cambridge Botanic Garden; a visit to the Scott Polar Research Institute and a talk at our local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Events which the Initiative has organised for the community in the past 12 months have been the Late Night Christmas Shopping last December, the Societies Showcase in May, the Dance in the Square in August and the biggest event of all which was the Maze Festival. The Festival committee was very ably led by Barbara Wilcox and I'd like her to report back now on the event.

The Maze Festival took place over nine days in August. It encompassed over twenty eight individual events and activities, four exhibitions, and a trail of six temporary mazes linking Bridge End Gardens Maze and the Turf Maze. The Festival took 2 years to plan, and funding of c £13,000 came from Awards for All (National Lottery), the Initiative, Saffron Walden Town Council and Essex County Council Chairman's Fund. GQ, Ridgeons and Saffron Building Society gave significant in-kind assistance. Some fourteen local organisations contributed to the Festival by organising or hosting individual events. We are grateful also to the many members of the Initiative who volunteered to help to run and steward the Festival.

Feedback on the Festival has been overwhelmingly positive. Over 1000 people came to the games activity and display in the Town Hall, attendances for individual events averaged around one hundred, and the Tourist Information Centre recorded an increase of 16% in non-local inquiries during Festival week, compared to the

same week the previous year. The Initiative is minded to try to repeat the Festival, possibly on a smaller scale in 2013, and thereafter on a tri-ennial cycle, to fit in with Carnival and the Arts Festival.

One of the projects taken on by the Initiative was the refurbishment of Swan Meadow Pond by removing the island and silt and then making gently sloping sides for a range of marginal and aquatic plants. The funding for this came from two landfill companies - Biffa and Viridor. The contractors had to cope with freezing weather and a number of strong springs which made it difficult for them to empty the pond for their work. Since then we have had very little rain and the water level has been low. However, once the rains return then the pond should fill up quite quickly.

A second project which was completed this year was the installation of new town entrance signs for the Saffron Walden. Essex County Council provided funds to the Initiative to have these designed by a local graphic designer, David Riches, and then awarded a separate grant to have the signs manufactured and installed. A third project was to change the 17 platform signs at Audley End Station by adding the words "for Saffron Walden". This was to have been financed by the Initiative but to date it has not been possible to have the signs printed and installed by companies approved by National Express. However, we are hopeful that the signs can be put up when the new franchise holder takes over next year.

To end I would like to record my thanks to our Auditors, Shipleys LLP of Market Walk, Saffron Walden who do our accounts for no charge which is much appreciated. I'd also like to give a vote of thanks to our excellent Board of Directors and Treasurer. Special mention must be made of Stephen Jones who has been a Director of the Initiative from its inception ten years ago but is not standing again this year. Many thanks to Stephen for his many contributions as an Initiative Director.

4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountant' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2011

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2011 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of John Ready and seconded by Paul Garland it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2011 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports thereon be adopted and approved.

5. Election of Directors

The following Directors elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2010 offered themselves as candidates for re-election: Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Helen Larsen, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox

Chris Knight and Lindsey Penny put themselves forward as candidates for election

On the proposal of Peter Long and seconded by Anthony Skipper it was unanimously agreed:

- (A) That the appointment of the candidates for re-election and election be decided by a single resolution, and
- (B) That Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, Helen Larsen, Lindsey Penny, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox be elected Directors of the Company to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Appointment of Accountants

On the proposal of Chris Hingston and seconded by Chris Knight it was unanimously agreed:

That Shipleys LLP be re-appointed accountants of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm