

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 26th NOVEMBER 2012**

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

Elaine Corke, Ginny Eley, Dominic Davey, Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, Alice Kohler, Ray Jones, Helen Larsen, Peter Long, Jonathan Miller, David Pearl, Jackie Plaister, Len Pole, Brian Porter, Jill Porter, John Ready, Peter Riding, Sue Rooney, Judith Rowland, Peter Sanders, Donna Sharp, Simon Teague, Job Tissot, Martin Turnbull, Sue Ullstein, Robert Welham, Kate White, Barbara Wilcox, Janice Wrigley

Apologies for absence were received from:

Beverly Bernhardt, Pamela Bray, Elizabeth Charles, David Corke, Paul Garland, Maggie Garland, Lewis Gruber, Jane Knight, Andy Long, Jane Ready, Ronnie Rip, Judith Rodden, Anthony Skipper, Shelagh Skipper, Mark Starte, Joanne Stone, Tim Stone, Malcolm White

Peter Riding was in the Chair and a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd November 2011

On the proposal of Ginny Eley and seconded by Barbara Wilcox it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 23rd November 2011 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 six times in the last 12 months and the other Directors have been Ginny Eley, Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, Helen Larsen, John Ready and Barbara Wilcox. Lindsey Penny attended the first meeting but had to resign in April to devote more time to her studies. The Treasurer has been Robert Welham. Membership is up from 177 last year to 197 this year which is very encouraging.

Events we have organised for members this year have been a visit to the Palace of Westminster with Sir Alan Haselhurst, a Historical Walk in Clavering with Jacky Cooper, a visit to Stansted Airport, Evensong at King's College Chapel, guided visits to Ickleton, Strethall and Littlebury Churches with Rosanne Kirkpatrick, and a visit to King's College Library and Archive Centre. A Town Treasure Hunt had to be abandoned at the last minute in July because of rain but we plan to try it again next year.

Events which the Initiative has organised for the community in the past 12 months have been the Late Night Christmas Shopping last December, a January Social Quiz in the King's Arms, the special Jubilee Dance in the Square in June, the annual Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday Saturday, the Societies Showcase in September, and the Community Bulb Planting in Little Walden Road in October. We also have an ongoing project involving both Initiative members and the Saffron Walden Camera Club to photograph all the listed buildings in the town for use as an up-to-date record by the Planning Department at Uttlesford District Council.

Looking ahead, we are planning to hold a second Maze Festival in August next year and another Societies Showcase in May 2014. Planning for the next Maze Festival is well advanced and, although it will only run for three or four days over one weekend this time, it should be a great success. We are also seeking a suitable location for a third permanent maze in the town but so far with no success. All suggestions welcome!

One of the projects taken on by the Initiative two years ago was the refurbishment of Swan Meadow Pond. The funding for this came from two landfill companies - Biffa and Viridor Credits. For a while there was very little rain and the water level stayed low but once the rains returned the pond filled up quickly. The wire cages were put in to stop the ducks eating the young plants but the cages should be removed soon by Uttlesford District Council who own and manage the pond.

Another project was to change the 17 platform signs at Audley End Station by adding the words “for Saffron Walden”. The Initiative had planned to pay for the changes but in the end the new railway company, Greater Anglia, made the changes at its own expense.

For some time now Chris Hingston has been running monthly Saffron Startups sessions in the King’s Arms to help people who want to start a business or who have recently started a business. This used to be part of the Business Forum but since the summer the Business Forum has in practice ceased to exist so the Initiative is now hosting the Startups meetings. And Chris is now also running Saffron Business Friends networking meetings in the King’s Arms every month, also as a service of the Initiative.

An ongoing project which the Initiative has been pursuing during the last year is the design and installation of a Blue Plaque scheme in the town to commemorate significant former residents. The scheme is supported by a grant from Uttlesford District Council and progress has now reached an advanced stage. As soon as all listed building approvals have been obtained, the initial half dozen plaques will be put in place in the New Year, with the help of Saffron Walden Town Council’s direct labour team.

And the Initiative is currently putting together a Community Resources Register so that local groups can list resources such as display boards or gazebos which they are happy to lend or hire out to other local groups.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to our Auditors, Croucher Needham (Essex) 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.

NOTE: The first six Blue Plaques will be for George Stacey Gibson, Henry Winstanley, Gabriel Harvey, Edward Bawden, Jack Cardiff and Gordon Jacob.

4. Financial Statements and Directors’ and Accountant’ Reports for the year ended 31st March 2012

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2012 and the Directors’ and Accountants’ reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Peter Long and seconded by Chris Knight it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2012 and the Directors’ and Accountants’ reports thereon be adopted and approved.

The Treasurer, Robert Welham, was thanked for his helpful notes on the Statutory Accounts.

5. Election of Directors

The following Directors elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2011 offered themselves as candidates for re-election: Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, Helen Larsen, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox

On the proposal of Ray Jones and seconded by David Pearl it was unanimously agreed:

That the appointment of the candidates for re-election and election be decided by a single resolution, and

That Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, Helen Larsen, 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 Donna Sharp and seconded by Helen Larsen it was unanimously agreed:

That Croucher Needham (Essex) LLP of Market Walk, Saffron Walden (previously known as 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