

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY HELD
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOL ROOM, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX
AT 7.45PM ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2010**

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

Elaine Corke, Marilyn Driscoll, Chris Hingston, Ray Jones, Helen Larsen, Peter Long, Len Pole, Rosemary Olsen, Judith Plaister, Michael Plaister, Brian Porter, Jill Porter, Peter Riding, Judith Rodden, Donna Sharp, Michael Swindlehurst, Nigel Weaver, Robert Welham, Barbara Wilcox, Carolyn Wingfield

Apologies for absence were received from:

Pamela Bray, Val Clarke, David Corke, Ernest Effer, Judith Effer, Ginny Eley, Catherine Flack, Hans Fliri, Sandy Fliri, Paul Garland, Maggie Garland, Charles Goldie, Elizabeth Jones, Chris Knight, Jane Knight, Barbara Leckenby, Jez Leckenby, Andy Long, Jane Ready, John Ready, Sue Rooney, Peter Sanders, David Sandys-Renton, Anthony Skipper, Shelagh Skipper, Mark Starte, Anthony Woods, Louise Woods

Peter Riding was in the Chair and a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th November 2009

On the proposal of Donna Sharp and seconded by Michael Plaister it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 4th November 2009 were a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

2. Chairman's Report

Your Board met eight times in the last 12 months and the other Directors have been Ginny Eley, Catherine Flack, Chris Hingston, Stephen Jones, Helen Lawsen, John Ready, Donna Sharp and Barbara Wilcox. Donna Sharp resigned in July for personal reasons. Our Treasurer until the end of March was Pamela Collins and from the 1st April the Treasurer has been Robert Welham. A year ago the membership stood at 194 members and we now have 202 – 70 individual and 66 family members.

The headline is that this has been a very busy and productive year for the Initiative. Events we have organised for members this year have been a talk by Martyn Everett on the History of Saffron Walden; a visit to Saffron Walden Police Station; a Cheese and Wine Social at the Youth Hostel; a return visit to Cole's Traditional Foods; a visit to the Iron Age Fort at Audley End; a visit to Saffron Walden Fire Station; a return visit Saffron Walden Sewage Treatment Works; a visit to Bartlow Hills Burial Mounds; a visit to Ashdon Museum; a visit to Printpack in Radwinter Road and, finally, a return visit to the Welcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton. Events which the Initiative has organised for the community in the past 12 months have been the Late Night Christmas Shopping last December, a Villages Treasure Hunt organised by Ginny Eley in early August and the Dance in the Square in late August.

During the year the Initiative received a grant from Uttlesford District Council for £1,762 and added a matching amount from its own funds for the purchase of 6 seats which were installed by the Town Council in Swan Meadow, George Street, Abbey Lane and Jubilee Gardens. This means that the Initiative has now contributed a total of 19 seats and 3 benches to the town.

Two big projects which the Initiative undertook this year were the WALDEN 24 film and the Saffron Walden Community Calendar. The film started from a suggestion by Rachel Thomas at the Tourist Information Centre and involved 5 local crews filming over a 24 hour period last May. The editing took place over 3 months by David Gibsone and since then the film has been shown twice at Saffron Screen and around 440 DVDs have been sold. It is now scheduled to be shown again at Saffron Screen on the 2nd and 3rd of January. Thanks to David Gibsone's generosity in not charging a fee for the editing, the project is now in profit. The 2011 Community Calendar consisting of photographs taken by the general public was Donna Sharp's idea. Donna organised the whole project, working closely with Gordon Ridgewell and the Tourist Information Centre. The Calendar has been financed by the Initiative with the idea of sharing any profits 50/50 with the Tourist Information Centre who are selling it.

Looking ahead, next year we are planning to hold another Societies Showcase in the Town Hall on Saturday 21 May. And the big new Initiative project for next year will be a Maze Festival to be held between the 20th and 28th of August. This is being co-ordinated by a team led by Barbara Wilcox and will involve many other local individuals and groups.

Barbara Wilcox will be reporting on the work of the Partnership Board after my report, but I will talk here about three important projects which were started by the Partnership Board and which the Initiative is currently progressing with strong support from the former Project Officer, Bruce Tice.

One of these projects is the refurbishment of Swan Meadow Pond by removing the island, repairing the clay lining and then making gently sloping sides for a range of marginal and aquatic plants. The funding for this has come from two landfill companies – Biffa and Viridor – and this required the Initiative to become which is called an “Environmental Body” which, in turn, meant that we had to agree to an amendment to our Memorandum of Association which you will see appears further down the Agenda. The contractors are working at the pond at the moment and are having to cope with a number of strong springs which are making it difficult for them to empty the pond.

A second Partnership Board project this year has been a plan for new road entrance signs for the town. Essex County Council provided funds to have these designed by a local graphic designer, David Riches, and then awarded a separate grant to have the signs manufactured and installed. The signs have been approved by the Town Council and, with any luck, should be up early in the New Year. A third Partnership Board project is to change the 17 platform signs at Audley End Station by adding the words “for Saffron Walden”. This has the approval of the station manager, the design has been made by David Riches and we expect the signs to be changed soon. This is being financed completely by the Initiative.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to our Auditors, Shipleys LLP of Market Walk, Saffron Walden who do our accounts for no charge and I’d also like to give a special vote of thanks to our excellent Board of Directors and Treasurers.

MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

An annual meeting with Uttlesford District Council to review the maintenance of Swan Meadow Pond.
One or more road signs in Saffron Walden pointing to Audley End Station.

3. Report by Barbara Wilcox, Chair of the Saffron Walden Partnership Board

This has been a year of change for the Partnership Board, and this is the last formal report of the Board to the Saffron Walden Initiative AGM. Members may recall that the Partnership Board was established in 2005. Its purpose was to oversee the implementation of the 2004 Saffron Walden Healthcheck action plan. The constitution of the board was set by the Countryside Agency, the government body then funding this work. This gave a pre-eminent role for the Initiative, as chair of the Board and the sole body representing the community, alongside representatives of the Town, District and County Councils.

Since November 2009 the Board has met formally 3 times during the year. In March the Board learnt about partnership working in Ely, a town of similar size to Saffron Walden. There, a wide network of partners and organisations has run a number of successful projects. The Board at this meeting decided to review its role and operation, given also the changes in funding and the achievement of many of the Healthcheck’s proposals.

The need for change was given further impetus by the resignation of Bruce Tice, who had undertaken the role of project officer on a part time basis, at the end of March. The Board subsequently held two further meetings, at which we decided that the Board as constituted should cease to exist, and that a more widely based partnership would better serve the town.

A small working group, consisting of Councillors Keith Eden, Bob Eastham and Howard Rolfe; John Ready, Stephen Jones and myself, subsequently organised a workshop for community organisations. This took place on 2nd November, and engaged some 30 organisations in discussion. There was wide agreement that some sort of community partnership is needed for Saffron Walden, and around 20 organisations signed up to help to take this forward.

It is particularly pleasing that all three local authorities are actively supporting this development with funding or officer or Councillor time. I hope that the Saffron Walden Initiative will continue to play a strong role in a wider partnership for the town.

I should like to place on record my thanks to the Initiative's representatives on the Partnership Board during the year: John Ready, Ginny Eley, and Stephen Jones. I am particularly grateful to Peter Riding, and to other members of the Initiative including Bruce Tice who have worked in a voluntary capacity to take forward projects initiated under the auspices of the Board.

5. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountant' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2010

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2010 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Barbara Wilcox and seconded by Chris Hingston it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2010 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports thereon be adopted and approved.

6. Amendment of the Memorandum of Association

On the proposal of Helen Larsen seconded by Ray Jones it was unanimously resolved that the Memorandum of Association be amended as follows:

(1) Insert the following Proviso at the end of Clause 3 to read as follows:

PROVIDED THAT

The work of Saffron Walden Initiative shall not be for the benefit of landfill site operators who may contribute to Saffron Walden Initiative Limited and claim credit under the Landfill Communities Fund. Nor shall it be for the benefit of contributing third parties as defined in the landfill tax regulations.

(2) Insert the following Proviso at the end of Clause 8 to read as follows:

PROVIDED THAT

In the event of the organisation disbanding any remaining Landfill Communities Fund money shall be transferred to any enrolled Environmental Body and not to an organisation of similar objects and status.

7. Election of Directors

The following Directors elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2009 offered themselves as candidates for re-election: Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Stephen Jones, Helen Larsen, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox

And Marilyn Driscoll put herself forward as a candidate for election

On the proposal of Robert Welham and seconded by Nigel Weaver 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 Marilyn Driscoll, Ginny Eley, Christopher Hingston, Stephen Jones, Helen Larsen, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox be elected Directors of the Company to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

8. Appointment of Accountants

On the proposal of Peter Riding and seconded by Robert Welham 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.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 8.35pm