

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 7.30PM ON 17th NOVEMBER 2014**

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

Lorraine Chitson, Ginny Eley, Michael Gould, Chris Hingston, Ray Jones, Chris Knight, John Ready, Peter Riding, Sue Rooney, Judith Rowland, Donna Sharp, Michael Swindlehurst, Colin Taylor, Job Tissot, Lucinda Whife, Barbara Wilcox, Barry Wiseman, Sue Wiseman, Janice Wrigley

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Beverly Bernhardt, Elizabeth Charles, Ann Clackson, Dominic Davey, Paul Garland, Jane Knight, Eileen Miller, Jonathan Miller, Inger O'Meara, Brian Porter, Jill Porter, Jacqui Portway, Jane Ready, Ronnie Rip, Peter Sanders, Donna Sharp, Mark Starte, Sue Ullstein, Helen Wood, Tony Woods

Peter Riding was in the Chair and a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2013

On the proposal of Chris Knight and seconded by Job Tissot it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 20th November 2013 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 since the last AGM and the other Directors have been Ginny Eley, Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, Jonathan Miller, John Ready and Barbara Wilcox. We have been very lucky to have Sue Wiseman as the Membership Secretary and Donna Sharp as the Treasurer. Donna is having to retire from the post for personal reasons and Cindy Whife has kindly stepped in to take over.

Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that we are a Company with no shares and so can be regarded as a non-profit making organisation. Currently I am the Secretary of the Company but in previous years it was Charles Goldie who I am sad to report passed away in July.

Membership is up from 171 last year to 180 and some of this increase could be due to our new recruitment leaflet. Please feel free to take home leaflets for friends and neighbours.

Events we have organised specifically for members in the past 12 months have been a guided visit to Tilty Church, a tour of Ashdon Windmill, a guided tour of Cambridge Botanic Gardens, a tour of P&A Wood Rolls Royce dealers in Great Easton, and a guided tour around the Lost Pubs of Saffron Walden. For some reason there was almost no take up for a visit to Great Dunmow Museum and Maltings which we had to cancel.

On behalf of the Initiative Chris Hingston has continued to run free monthly *Saffron Start Ups* sessions in the King's Arms to help people who want to start a business or who have recently started a business. And he also organises monthly *Saffron Business Friends* networking meetings in the King's Arms. Many thanks to Chris.

Events which the Initiative has organised for the community in the past 12 months have been the Late Night Christmas Shopping last December, a Social Quiz in the King's Arms in January, a talk in February by local geologist Gerald Lucy on the Last 100 Million Years in Saffron Walden, an Initiative Open Evening at No.1 Myddylton Place in March, Societies Showcase in June and the annual Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday Saturday.

We played a part in the celebrations in May of the 500 Years' Anniversary of the Town's Charter by organising a Tudor Trail. And in August we collaborated with the Camera Club to provide a *Your Family and World War I* drop-in centre in the Town Hall where photographic and audio recording were made which have since been given to Essex Record Office, Saffron Walden Museum and Saffron Walden Town Library.

In January we donated £500 towards the Bridge End Gardens Visitor Centre Appeal. We don't normally give grants to other organisations but felt that this should be an exception because the new Visitor Centre will add to the quality of life for the whole town - both residents and visitors.

We were grateful to the Town Council for a grant of £300 towards the Dance in the Square and another grant of £201 to cover our Public Liability Insurance. And Uttlesford District Council gave us a grant of £400 towards the Dance in the Square.

Looking ahead we would like to extend the Blue Plaques scheme in the town and also see if we can help with the refurbishment of the Victorian fenced gardens outside The Close house in the High Street. We hope to be able to work with Essex Record Office on a Listening Bench where you will be able to hear a range of oral history recordings. And we would like to offer Welcome Packs through estate agents for residents new to the area. And in 2016 we are planning to organise another Maze Festival.

The Board is always keen to hear suggestions from the Members. So if any suggestions for events or community projects come to mind during this meeting, please note them on the agenda sheet and let us have them at the end.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to our Accountants, Croucher Needham (Essex) LLP of Market Walk in Saffron Walden who do our annual accounts for no charge which is much appreciated.

And I'd also like to give a vote of thanks to our excellent Board of Directors, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. In particular I would like to thank Ginny Eley who is retiring as a Director after 7 years. She will be greatly missed on the Board but assures us that she will be actively supporting us from the side lines!

4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountant' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2014

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2014 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Chris Hingston and seconded by John Ready it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2014 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 2013 offered themselves as candidates for re-election: Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, Jonathan Miller, John Ready, Peter Riding and Barbara Wilcox.

Lucinda Whife put herself forward as a candidate for election.

On the proposal of Barry Wiseman and seconded by Ginny Eley it was unanimously agreed:

That the appointment of the candidates for re-election and election be decided by a single resolution, and
That Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, Jonathan Miller, John Ready, Peter Riding, Lucinda Whife 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 Barbara Wilcox and seconded by Susan Wiseman it was unanimously agreed:

That Croucher Needham (Essex) LLP of Market Walk, Saffron Walden be re-appointed accountants of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Suggestions were made by Members to increase the visibility of the Initiative at events organised by the Initiative such as the *Dance in the Square* and also by distribution of membership leaflets in the town centre on Market days and by giving leaflets to all current Members to pass on to their friends and neighbours.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm