

**SAFFRON WALDEN INITIATIVE LIMITED**  
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number 03340325

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY  
HELD BY POST AND EMAIL ON 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

The following Members took part by either post or email:

Michael Chappell; Mr M. Christodoutides; Mrs M. Christodoutides; Valerie Clarke; C. P. Crawshay; Dominic Davey; Chris Dodge; Charlotte Dunham; Ian Dunham; Gail Ellisdon; Jerry Gardner; John Gardner; Patricia Gregory; Christopher Hingston; Anne Hughes; Richard Hughes; Chris Knight; Jane Knight; David Laing; Jane Laing; Sue Lambley; Andy McGonegal; Cathy McGonegal; Eileen Miller; Jonathan Miller; Inger O'Meara; Kevin O'Meara; Gillian Mulley; David Pearl; Gillian Pearl; Jacqui Portway; Jane Ready; John Ready; Peter Riding; Rosemary Roberts; Judith Rowland; David Sandys-Renton; Sally Sandys-Renton; Donna Sharp; Anthony Skipper; Judith Starr; Noel Starr; Joanne Stone; Tim Stone; Job Tissot; Margaret Tissot; Sue Ullstein; Clive Walker; Linda Walker; Robert Walker; Caroline Westnedge; John Westnedge; Carol Wilkinson; Kenneth Wilson; Helen Wood; Tim Wood; Bertie Wrigley; Freda Wrigley

No apologies for absence were received

**Peter Riding was in the Chair**

**1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

On the proposal of John Ready and seconded by Jacqui Portway it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 were a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman.

**2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising

**3. Chair's Report**

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic your **Board** only met three times since the last AGM. The other Directors have been Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready and Cindy Whife. Cindy has also been the Treasurer and I have also been the Company Secretary and Membership Secretary.

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**. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently **188** registered Members - down from 198 last year. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join.

**Member events** which did take place in the last 12 months were: Talk at Uttlesford Citizens Advice in Saffron Walden; Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Presentation. Member events which were postponed because of the pandemic were: Tour of P&A Wood in Great Easton; Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue Presentation; Visit to Hatfield Forest; Visit to Geoffrey Parker Games in Wimbish; Tour of Cambridge Colleges Sundials; Tour & Tasting at Saffron Grange Vineyard.

**Community events** which did take place in the last 12 months were the second **Christmas Shop Windows Competition** in November which had 32 entries and involved 12 judges, organised by Jacqui Portway; the entertainment for the **Christmas Lights Switch On** organised by Jacqui Portway; the **Late Night Christmas Shopping** event in December with the charity stalls organised by Patrick Hawke-Smith; and another enjoyable **Social Quiz** in the King's Arms in January organised by Barbara Wilcox and Ginny Eley. Community events which were postponed were a **Music Saturday** event in June involving buskers in a number of locations around the town centre; the 18<sup>th</sup> **Dance in the Square** on August Bank Holiday Saturday; and the biannual **Societies Showcase** in the Town Hall which was moved from September 2020 to March 2021.

For many years Chris Hingston has organised monthly **Saffron Business Friends** networking meetings in the King's Arms with a different speaker each time. In March 2020 Chris decided to discontinue the meetings because of dwindling attendances.

This year John Ready has continued to put together **Welcome Packs** for new residents to the area. These are distributed free through the Tourist Information Centre. The **Listening Bench** in the Museum grounds has been fitted with a replacement battery and continues to be popular. This is where you can hear a range of oral history recordings which the Initiative set up with the help of Essex Record Office.

An ongoing project which is now completed has been the photographing of all the **Listed Buildings** in Saffron Walden. This was started off by Barbara Wilcox from the Initiative and then taken over by Dominic Davey from the Camera Club who is also an Initiative member. The photographs, along with copies of their Historic England listings, have been sent to the Planning Department at Uttlesford as well as the Town Council and Essex County Council Archives. All the images and accompanying text can be found at [www.swinitiative.org/listed-buildings](http://www.swinitiative.org/listed-buildings).

John Ready for the Initiative would like to arrange for a second batch of **Blue Plaques** to be researched, manufactured and installed. He is working with a small group of local history experts to examine possible options. The current plan would be for two women, two men and two locations which could be St Mary's Church and the old Rose & Crown Hotel. The cost of six additional plaques could be around £3,500 and another £1,000 would be needed for a new leaflet.

I would like to record my thanks to our Accountants, **Croucher Needham** of Market Walk in Saffron Walden, who prepare our annual accounts for no charge which is much appreciated. Finally I'd like to give a warm vote of thanks to the excellent Board of Directors and, in particular, Chris Hingston who is retiring from the Board after 13 years.

#### **4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountant' Reports for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Cindy Whife and seconded by Peter Riding it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports thereon be adopted and approved.

#### **5. Election of Directors**

The following Members offered themselves as candidates for election as Directors: Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Lucinda Whife.

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

That the appointment of the candidates for election be decided by a single resolution and that Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, and Lucinda Whife be elected Directors of the Company to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

#### **6. Appointment of Accountants**

On the proposal of Jacqui Portway and seconded by David Pearl it was unanimously agreed:

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

#### **7. Any Other Business**

There were no matters arising

The Annual General Meeting closed at 12 midnight