

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEYBRIDGE SOCIETY

Held at St.James's Parish Church rooms at 8pm on April 6 2017

1. The chairman, Dave Arnold, **welcomed** the 47 members present.
2. He gave apologies for absence from Lorraine Arnold, Michael and Irene Aspel, Stephen and Trish Carver, Sue Ells, John and Wendy Hanafin, Trevor and Trudy Lewis, Willie Lister, Elvira Spary, Jon and Evelyn Tait, Marjorie Tarring, Peter and Brenda Vey and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Williams.
3. A motion to accept the **minutes** of the previous year's AGM, distributed earlier, was proposed by Barry Judd, seconded by Haley Jenkins and passed unanimously.
4. The chairman then presented his **report** on the preceding year, attached separately to these minutes. In subsequent discussion new member Vicky Macleod asked if the Society's interest was always in the fabric of the town or did it extend to people? Dave Arnold said that the society was certainly interested in people and the extra funds that would be available through Gift Aid would enable us to do more in that direction. Raymond Spary was the chairman of the Planning Panel. Richard Marshall pointed out that at the inaugural meeting in 1956 of the Weybridge Residents' Association (the Society's previous name) some 200 members attended. Raymond Spary commended the chairman for his contribution to the Society and proposed the adoption of his Report. This was seconded by Steve McCarthy and passed unanimously.
5. Dave Arnold presented the Society's **accounts** for 2016. With a bank balance in the range £9000-£9500 our financial position was satisfactory and improving, even before the recovery of Gift Aid and the increased subscription revenue had started. Membership was also rising. Barry Judd proposed and Steve McCarthy seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's report, which was passed unanimously.
6. Jon Tait being willing to stand again as auditor/**examiner** his election was proposed by Andrew Davis, seconded by David Bean and passed unanimously.
7. Dave Arnold recited the names of those standing for election () or re-election to the executive Committee, namely Dave Arnold, Joe Hall, John Hanafin, Haley Jenkins, Barry Judd, Anne Lindsay, Richard Marshall, Steve McCarthy, Trevor Lewis, Trevor Tarring. Their election en bloc was proposed by Margaret Wicks, seconded by Sally Bean and carried unanimously
8. Dave Arnold then introduced a motion to **close** down the old Society to make way for the new, CIO, Society. It was proposed by Andrew Davis, seconded by Barry Judd and carried by an overwhelming majority.
9. Dave Arnold recalled that the current **trustees** of the Trust are Barry Judd, John Hanafin, Richard Marshall and himself. At this first anniversary they had to retire en bloc and offered themselves for re-election. This was proposed by Anne Lindsey, seconded by Nick Thrupp and carried unanimously. In future only one third of the trustees will be required to retire.
10. Dave Arnold then invited Paul Wolstenholmes to report on his visit to the new Sam Beare hospice in Goldsworth Park, Woking. Paul explained his conversion from an attitude of hostility, due to the removal of the traditional Sam Beare facility in Weybridge, to one of admiration for the high-class facilities at the new hospice. He cited the unreasonable terms asked for a renewal of the hospice's lease in Weybridge as making the move inevitable. There would still be a team of

community nurses available for care at home in Weybridge with a base for the present at Clive House.

The poor quality of public transport to the new hospice was a drawback, but the building was impressive, with balconies for each of the 20 rooms and it was free of NHS oversight. Some parking was available at the site, but visitors had three hours free parking at the adjacent Waitrose. Richard Marshall recalled that the local gardens scheme supported the Sam Beare hospice, but needs an organiser. Extra volunteer drivers for the day hospice were also needed. The new premises would start opening in May and be fully open in September.

11. Support of charities. Jennifer Holcroft said the Friends of Weybridge Hospital had given much money to Sam Beare in the past and it was sad to see it migrate to Woking. Keith Wilson asked about the area of coverage of Sam Beare in Woking. Steve McCarthy clarified that it is the whole of North West Surrey. The fact that the Princess Alice hospice was nearer than Woking was raised as a reason for supporting it. There were some dissensions from this idea. Raymond Spary said that it is early days and suggested a 50/50 split of Society charitable donations between Sam Beare and Princess Alice. Initially this idea was favourably received but with further discussion it was agreed that for this year support of Sam Beare should continue.

In response to a further question about donations, Dave Arnold clarified that there are no restrictions on a charity giving to another charity. Anne Lindsay asked that the Society keep the small Weybridge Lands charity in mind. Dave Arnold summarised that we would keep Sam Beare in focus this year and meantime the Society would study the field.

12. No new initiatives for the Society to support were immediately mentioned.

13. Under any other business Haley Jenkins aired ideas for increasing the number of younger members. These included events such as a scavenger hunt, a photographic competition and a new range of lecture topics. Another speaker drew attention to the junctions at either end of Oatlands Chase, where roundabouts are needed. Raymond Spary said Surrey would only listen to such arguments after a serious accident has occurred.

14. Steve McCarthy then presented the results of his operational review, designed to eliminate the flaws in the old system for registering new members, making annual subscriptions and keeping the membership lists in order. There would be three classes of membership – individual, joint and household at one address. For the new system to work, email addresses were vital for the lead member of each household. To ensure the Society receives subscriptions at the new rate agreed last year, members who had renewed at New Year needed to top up their subscriptions now. At the same time they should sign a Gift Aid declaration. He said he would still find a way to manage the subscriptions of members who have no email.

Dave Arnold thanked Steve McCarthy for his work on this issue and for his other services to the Society through the year. He then closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Trevor Tarring
April 14th 2017