

**THE WEYBRIDGE SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
held at St James's Parish Church Hall at 8pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018.



The Chairman, Dave Arnold, opened the meeting by **welcoming** over 80 members and guests and thanked them for their patience and alacrity in moving from the small to the large hall due to the unexpected volume of people attending, possibly the largest ever at a Society AGM. He particularly welcomed the Surrey County and Elmbridge Borough Councillors present.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Ken Gill, Michael and Ellen Julien, Lee Grant, Ben Trinkler, Niall Gallahar, Elvira Spary, Peter and Brenda Vey, Lorraine Arnold, Trevor and Trudy Lewis, the Reverend Brian Prothero, John and Wendy Hannafin, Clare Webb-Jenkins, Evelyn Tait, Robin and Sally Sutton and Elizabeth Judd.

A motion to **approve the minutes** of the AGM held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was proposed by Raymond Spary, seconded by Barry Judd and carried unanimously.

On behalf of the **Trustees**, Dave Arnold presented their **Annual Report for 2017** (copy attached). Acceptance of this report was proposed by Trevor Tarring, seconded by Steve McCarthy and carried unanimously.

**Election of Trustees.** The Chairman reported that John Hannafin had resigned as a Trustee, due to ill health, and was, therefore, not offering himself for re-election. He enthusiastically thanked John for his service both as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee. The remaining current Trustees – Dave Arnold, Richard Marshall and Barry Judd – had confirmed their willingness to continue in office. It was proposed that they be joined by Nick Thripp (Chairman of The Triangle Residents Group) and Raymond Spary (former Chairman of The Society and long standing Chairman of its Planning Panel) who had offered themselves for election as Trustees. The appointment of all 5 Trustees was proposed by Brian Roberts, seconded by Eric Hammond and carried unanimously.

The **Chairman** then proceeded to present his **Report** (copy attached) with a short review of key activities:

- **Membership Database.** He specifically thanked Steve McCarthy, Trevor Lewis and Sally Bean for their hard work on updating the Database and introduction of the new membership arrangements which particularly urged members to “sign up” in relation to Gift Aid. He went on to highlight the fact that, since the last AGM, The Society had gained 91 new members but lost only 18, the largest increase in membership for many years.
- **Website update.** The Chairman reported that this had been overhauled, upgraded, re-written and re-designed during the course of the year following the introduction of the new Society logo in the Autumn of 2017. As a result, the Website was cleaner, more up to date and compatible with smart ‘phones and tablets. (Of particular benefit to the younger generation). The Chairman thanked the team involved in this task – Steve McCarthy (Webmaster), Lesia Scholey (Newsletter Editor) and Phil Wragg (local resident).
- **Planning Panel.** The Chairman expressed a special thank you to the members of the Panel for their dedication and hard work. He particularly highlighted applications for Clive and Salisbury Houses on Queens Road and the former Grotto pub on Monument Hill. He also referred to the number of applications coming forward for retirement homes.
- **War Memorial at Temple Market.** The Chairman reported the Society’s success in securing £32,500 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to light up and improve the surroundings of the Memorial. He thanked David Bounds for his work on this project and the Elmbridge Borough Councillors present who had supported the initiative.

- **Parking Review**. The Chairman reported that, in conjunction with The Weybridge Town Business Group, a parking survey had been undertaken during the course of the year and the results presented to the County and Borough Councils whose response was awaited. He particularly recognised the work put into this project by Mike O’Sullivan and Paul Povey (Chairman of the Town Business Group).
- **Heathside School**. The Chairman reported that the recipients of this year’s Weybridge Society Awards were James Derham for history and Nancy Scott (Sixth form contribution to the community).

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented the Society’s **Accounts for 2017** and highlighted items of importance. The Society’s financial position was stable and membership continued to grow – thanks in part to the “all Weybridge” drop of the Newsletter earlier in the year. He commented that the recovery of Gift Aid had not yet commenced but it was possible to backdate this. He urged Members to sign up for Gift Aid on the Society’s website as up to £1,000 was potentially available. Steve McCarthy proposed and Margaret Wicks seconded adoption of the Accounts and this was carried unanimously.

**Election of Accounts Examiner** for 2018. The Chairman thanked Jon Tait for his thorough examination of the 2017 Accounts and confirmed that Jon was willing to continue in the post for 2018. This was proposed by Dave Arnold, seconded by Barry Judd and carried unanimously.

**Election of Executive Committee**. After many years of sterling service, which the Chairman acknowledged, Trevor Tarring and John Hanafin had decided to stand down from the Committee. Those willing to continue were Dave Arnold, Barry Judd, Anne Lindsay, Richard Marshall, Steve McCarthy and Trevor Lewis. Lesia Scholey and Mervyn Greig were seconded on to the Committee during the year and had expressed a willingness to be re-elected. Andy Richardson and Raymond Spary had offered themselves for election. Eric Hammond proposed and Nick Thripp seconded that the above be elected “en bloc” and this was carried unanimously.

**Newsletter update and photographic competition**. The Chairman welcomed the new Newsletter Editor, Lesia Scholey, and invited her to speak on these topics. A new A5 format had been introduced and advertising included which, in time, it was hoped would cover the cost of production. The “I Love Weybridge” student photo completion had been launched with entries closing on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Chairman next introduced a discussion on **Options for the Weybridge Hospital, Library and Churchfields car park sites. (Weybridge Rebuild and Advance Project – WRAP)**. He reported that the Society had formed a working group to progress rejuvenation ideas for these sites which could include a community centre, affordable housing, and additional car parking. He highlighted the size of the various sites – the Hospital: 8,050 square metres (or 6,725 square metres net of the entrance area) on which, before the fire, a building of only 2 x 1,800 square feet stood – the Library: 1,100 square metres with a building of only 3 x 700 square metres – and the car park: 4,800 square metres. He highlighted the need to make more efficient use of space in all these locations and went on to invite members to express and/or submit their thoughts whilst not underestimating the difficulty in dealing with different authorities and understanding ownership difficulties. There was a need to approach Authorities with positive ideas, and explore ideas for the best use of publically owned land in the Town Centre. The idea being to create a vibrant Town Centre by bringing together a number of community activities, viz: a repurposed library, community centre, affordable housing, as well as NHS surgeries, Hospital, Walk-In Health Centre and more parking, avoiding piecemeal development. The idea was well received by members.

**Any other business**. A lively debate took place covering numerous issues affecting Weybridge including parking, traffic, potholes and the rebuilding of the NHS hospital. Doctors’ surgeries and Walk-

In Centre. The Councillors present responded to questions from the floor and, in particular, County Councillor Tim Oliver announced that plans had been dropped to sell the Register Office (Rylston) on Oatlands Drive. He credited the Society for bringing the matter to his attention and for spurring the petition which had alerted him to the weight of public opinion opposed to the proposed closure of this well loved facility. Councillor Oliver also highlighted the difficulties that the County Council had in dealing with pothole repairs due to inadequate Central Government funding – Surrey County Council received only £500,000 of Revenue Support Grant for this activity whilst Kent County Council received £7million. Something was clearly wrong with the formula for calculating the Grant and the burden need shifting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

B Judd 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018