

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 22nd NOVEMBER 2018**

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

Pat Gregory, Anne Hughes, Richard Hughes, Chris Knight, Gillian Mulley, Peter Riding, Judith Rowland, Simon Sharp, Anthony Skipper

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Dominic Davey, Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Hingston, Jane Knight, Jonathan Miller, Inger O'Meara, David Pearl, Gillian Pearl, Mark Starte, Sue Ullstein, Nigel Weaver, Cindy Whife, Barbara Wilcox, Bertie Wrigley, Freda Wrigley, Jan Wrigley

Peter Riding was in the Chair and a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th October 2017

On the proposal of Chris Knight and seconded by Simon Sharp it was unanimously agreed that:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 9th October 2017 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 **seven** times since the last AGM and the other Directors have been Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, Jacqui Portway, John Ready and Cindy Whife. Cindy has also been the Treasurer and for part of the year Sue Wiseman was the 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 currently are **182** registered Members - slightly down from 187 last year.

Events we organised specifically for **Members** in the last 12 months have been: A visit to the Saffron Walden Alms Houses; a Talk on how to be a Dementia Friendly Community; a visit to the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton; a visit to Saffron Walden Golf Club; Spring cleaning of the Town's Fingerposts; a visit to Chesterford Research Park and a visit to the English Spirit Distillery in Great Yeldham.

Events which the Initiative has organised for the **wider Community** in the past 12 months include the charity stalls for the Late Night Christmas Shopping last December organised by Patrick Hawke-Smith; the musical entertainments for the Late Night Shopping organised by Jacqui Portway; a Social Quiz in the King's Arms in January organised by Barbara Wilcox and Ginny Eley; the Mayor's Walk around Saffron Walden in April organised by John Ready; and the very successful Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday Saturday which featured the Blues Brothers Band organised by Jacqui Portway.

Specifically for the **business community**, Chris Hingston has organised monthly Saffron Business Friends networking meetings in the King's Arms with a different speaker each time.

Since the last AGM the permanent **Maze at Swan Meadow** has been re-configured by John Ready with the help of some other Initiative members. It had not been possible to keep the maze weed free and so it was decided to remove the hedging plants between the paved walkways and replace them with dark blue slate pieces. Also, 3 more planters with finger mazes and labyrinths were added, making a total of 11. The maze was closed for a period while the work was carried out and re-opened a couple of months ago. The changes should reduce the workload of weeding and maintenance and should maintain an attractive long-term appearance in use. Special thanks should go to John Ready who did most of the considerable work himself.

This year John Ready has continued to put together **Welcome Packs** for new residents to the area. They are distributed through Estate Agents and the Tourist Information Centre. We give them free to the TIC but charge Estate Agents to help cover our costs.

The **Listening Bench** in the museum grounds 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.

Last autumn we helped a new member, William Glanville, start monthly **Tea Dances** in the United Reform Church Hall in Abbey Lane. Unfortunately these did not attract enough clients to cover their costs and so after 3 months we had to give them up.

In January we carried out a survey of the state of **Street Signs** in Saffron Walden and submitted the report to the Town Council. We had found 20 signs which needed either significant repairs or replacing. The good news is that Uttlesford District Council has now replaced most of the damaged signs with new signs.

Another successful project 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. It is hoped that they will appear on the District Council's website before too long.

The latest venture for the Initiative is the organisation of the **Christmas Shop Windows Competition**. This year there are 42 entrants and the judging will take place tomorrow with the results to be announced on Sunday at the lights switch on. The hope is that over a number of years the town will become known for its Christmas shop windows and attract more visitors.

Many of you will have spotted that we had a colour feature in the most recent edition of the **Saffron Walden Historical Journal**. The piece ends with my hope that a younger generation will take over running the Initiative and develop even better ways to improve the quality of life for all living in and around Saffron Walden.

With that I would like to end my report by first recording our thanks to our Accountants, **Croucher Needham** of Market Walk in Saffron Walden who prepare 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. In particular I would like to thank Patrick Hawke-Smith who is stepping down from being a Director and who has been a great asset to the Board.

4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountant' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2018

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2018 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Richard Hughes and seconded by Chris Knight it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2018 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: Christopher Hingston, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Lucinda Whife.

On the proposal of Gillian Mulley and seconded by Anne Hughes it was unanimously agreed:

That the appointment of the candidates for election be decided by a single resolution and that Christopher Hingston, 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 Chris Knight and seconded by Simon Sharp 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 was no other business.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm