

Minutes of 56th Annual General Meeting

held in St Peter's Church Hall, Windsor Street, Chertsey, on Monday 21st March 2016

1. INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, APOLOGIES & TRIBUTE

The Chairman, Mr Malcolm S. Loveday, welcomed members and guests. (Approximately 45 people were present.) A special welcome was extended to visitors and new members. Apologies had been received from Derek Weston and Gerry Drake. The Chairman presented a tribute to Carl Boyde, Chairman of the Chertsey Agricultural Assn and Honorary Member of The Chertsey Society, who had died on Sunday 13/03/2016.

2. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th March 2015, having been circulated in the Autumn 2015 Newsletter, were accepted as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Richard Edis and seconded by Brian Hunt.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The report was issued to members at the meeting and accepted by the meeting following the Chairman's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015 / 2016

During 2015, over 311 letters & communications were drafted, typed and dispatched on behalf of *The Society*. Numerous actions were carried out by telephone or personal contact, including consultations with Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey County Council. During the year, members of *The Society* voluntarily devoted more than 1000 hours of their time towards achieving the Society's aims.

Highlights

Other activities were a) detailed examination of 102 local planning applications [118 in 2014] and b) the submission of 38 letters to RBC or SCC on planning issues [27 in 2014]. SCC still have not transferred part of the Tulk Field to RBC. We continued to lobby for progress via Thames Awash for the River Thames Scheme (RTS) for Flood Alleviation, being developed by the EA/DEFRA.

The main highlight of the year was the activities associated with the celebrations to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of *Magna Carta* in June 1215. The Chertsey Society participated by

- supplying Guy Fox Magna Carta books to Chertsey primary school children, and
- organising the lighting of the Beacon on St Ann's Hill on Sunday 14th June.

Approximately 350 people enjoyed the Beacon Lighting event coordinated by *The Chertsey Society* on St Ann's Hill, Chertsey, on Sunday 14th June 2015, supported by a) the Windsor Morris Dancers led by Cllr Cherith Simmons, b) the Thorpe Players (*Magna Carta: the Melodrama*), c) the Scouts (refreshments), d) Geoff Chapman & friends (folk music), e) Billy Reynolds, the Town Crier, and f) Dragon Fireworks. Thanks are expressed to Runnymede Borough Council for funding the Beacon & Fireworks, to Cllr Chris Norman for money from his SCC Members allocation for entertainment and to the Mayor, Cllr Derek Cotty, for supporting the event.

Mr Loveday also instigated the '*Strike a Blow for Democracy*' campaign to encourage bell ringers to mark the 800th Anniversary worldwide and the installation of four new '*Magna Carta*' bells for St Mary's Church Thorpe to complete the chime of eight bells.

We monitored development of the Local Plan and submitted views on local green spaces as well as various planning applications including the Aldi supermarket and the Old Town Hall. We have continued to index our archives, now housed at *The Orchard*, and a group is also looking at plaques on buildings of local interest.

Thanks were recorded to all the members who have worked so hard throughout the year in running meetings, recording minutes, staffing stalls at shows and fairs, and preparing and distributing newsletters, and to Joan Field for compiling the newspaper cuttings scrapbook. It is noted that *The Surrey Herald* ceased publication and that *The Surrey Advertiser* now covers the local area. In addition, thanks were recorded to Billy Reynolds for carrying out duties as *Town Crier*, and to Sean & Petra Hudson who maintain the website for *The Society*, see www.chertseysociety.org.uk. Appreciation was expressed to Emma Warren for editing the Newsletter, to Stephanie Hunt for compiling meeting reports, and to Myrna Johnson for staffing the registration desk at meetings. Special thanks are recorded to Sue Lambert who is retiring from the Committee after 32 years service.

The Monthly Meetings Programme maintained its consistently high standard. Open meetings during 2015 included talks on *Eyots & Aits on The Thames* (Miranda Vickers), *Victoria & George Crosses - Facts, Frauds & Funnies* (Major Rob Marshall), *All About Deer - Windsor Great Park* (Andrew Fielder), *Henry VI, Richard III & Chertsey Abbey* (Mike Page) as well as the Town Forum and the Annual Museum Visit with a talk about *Mrs Fox & Lady Holland* (V Spink); thanks were expressed to the Curator and colleagues.

Local Events: Our stalls at the Black Cherry Fair and the RAA Showcase displayed information on *The Society's* current activities; members' help in staffing the stalls was much appreciated.

Committee: All the committee were acknowledged for their support throughout the year, particularly Mrs Margaret Nichols for producing excellent committee minutes and to Brian Hunt for scrutinizing planning applications and to Clive Osborne for efficiently acting as Membership Secretary.

The Chairman concluded by thanking members for their support during the year and urged them all to aim to recruit new members.

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

The annual statement of accounts prepared by Miss Valerie Lane, approved by the Executive Committee and by the Independent Examiner, Mr Richard Mason, ACIB MIEEx, were presented by the Treasurer. It was reported that the general account for 2015 showed a shortfall of £473, however, it was noted that this sum included archive storage for two years and the purchase of a laptop, thus the deficit was not sufficient to justify increasing the annual subscription. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by County Councillor Chris Norman and seconded by Margaret Nichols and was accepted by all. A vote of thanks was passed to Miss V Lane and Mr R Mason for preparing and examining the accounts respectively.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2016/2017

The members willing to stand for election to the Executive Committee for 2016/2017 were:

<i>Chairman:</i> Mr Malcolm S. Loveday	<i>Vice Chairman:</i> Mr Brian Hunt
<i>Treasurer:</i> Miss Valerie Lane	<i>Minutes Secretary:</i> Mrs Margaret Nichols
<i>Membership Secretary:</i> Mr Clive Osborne	<i>Programme Co-ordinator:</i> Brian & Stephanie Hunt
<i>Committee:</i> Gerry Drake, Mrs Stephanie Hunt, Clive Osborne & Victor Spink	

All, proposed en bloc, by Myrna Johnson and seconded by Judith Norman, were voted in unanimously.

7. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Richard Mason, ACIB MIEEx, was proposed by Cllr Richard Edis and seconded by Valerie Edis and elected unanimously.

8. TALK

The meeting was followed by a talk '*Chertsey Combined Charities - Past and Present*' presented by Malcolm S Loveday, Trustee.

NOTE: The above minutes were circulated in the Autumn 2016 Newsletter.