

# THE WIGGONHOLT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Association, held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7pm at Rackham Old School

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1. Apologies for absence: Andrew Moffatt, Mr & Mrs Anthony Sill
2. Minutes of the last meeting, adoption of Minutes and matters arising: The Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> March 2007) and the Extraordinary General Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman, Peter Flatter, both proposed by Michael Pirkis and seconded by Michael Aidin. There were no matters arising.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: *A copy of this is appended to these Minutes.*
  - (i) The Chairman invited Mrs Felicity Burnet (Membership Secretary) to add some comments about membership. This currently stood at 160 composed of 92 family members, 29 individual members, 23 benefactor members, in addition to 16 complimentary memberships.
  - (ii) As an addition to this report, Mrs Janet Aidin (Secretary of the Association) was asked to speak about Minerals and Waste matters.

Mrs Aidin noted that behind all our activities lay the prospect of further sand extraction at Wiggonholt. Our successes from 1996 onwards and the administrative delays in drawing up a new official scheme for minerals and waste development in the County should not make us complacent. The West Sussex Minerals & Waste Local Development Framework had been held up by a revision of Government policy. This would be clarified within the current year and West Sussex County Council would then go ahead with the Core Strategy (policy document) of the Framework. The Core Strategy had got off to a false start. It had included policies only for both minerals and waste. The revision would include not only policies but sites which were capable of development, or "Strategic Sites" - the new name for "Proposal Sites". No Waste Local Plan had ever been adopted, but the old Minerals Local Plan had been "saved" (ie extended) until March 2009. We were likely to see action within this period and we should be prepared.
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - (i) Introducing the new Treasurer David Burnet, the Chairman explained that the Committee was exploring reapplication for charitable status. This had delayed the auditing of the accounts which would now be considered for approval at an Extraordinary meeting of the Association. At this meeting it was also planned to put forward proposals for charitable status for the approval of the membership.
  - (ii) Mr Burnet reported that subscriptions, fundraising and donations had yielded £5,700 in 2007 and the net balance of funds in hand showed an increase of £4,000 over the balance at the end of the previous year. The Association's deposit account with the Post Office had been transferred to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society following the withdrawal of this service by the Post Office. There were no questions.
5. Appointment of Hon. Auditor: Philip Migdale had agreed to be appointed for the current year. Mr Migdale's reappointment was unanimously agreed, proposed by Michael Aidin and seconded by Martin Vasey.
6. Election of Committee Members: Mrs Janet Aidin, as Secretary, noted that the Committee must consist of between 7 and 11 members. She called for nominations from the floor. Mrs Kate Glazier was retiring at this meeting, so that there were currently 8

candidates, Janet Aidin, Michael Aidin, David Burnet, Felicity Burnet, Peter Flatter, John Glazier, John Goss and Martin Vasey. These were unanimously elected to serve as Committee members, proposed as a group by Mrs Glazier and seconded by Mrs Bridget Hutcheson.

7. Election of Chairman: Mrs Aidin explained that the Chairman must be a member of the Committee. Mr Peter Flatter was proposed by Michael Joseph and seconded by John Rogers. There being no other candidates Mr Flatter was elected by acclamation.

8. Future Events

(a) The Chairman noted that Esmond Turner, the Landscape Adviser to West Sussex County Council, would give a talk on the Landscape Character of Wiggonholt and its Environs at Rackham Old School on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Landscape character now played an important part in planning and countryside protection, and a recent series of assessments had shown the extreme diversity of (and within) each area. Mr Turner was an eminent authority on landscape and a lively and interesting speaker who would no doubt come up with some surprises about our local environment.

(b) An evening of folk music was provisionally arranged by Mrs Felicity Burnet for 9<sup>th</sup> August at West Chiltington Village Hall at a cost of £7.50 to include a glass of wine: more details to follow.

(c) On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Michael Aidin would be giving an illustrated talk on War Memorials and their history. This would feature interesting memorials within a 40-mile radius of Wiggonholt and would be punctuated by readings from the distinguished literature on this subject. The event would be at The Old Rectory Wiggonholt and would be free to members of the Association.

(d) On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November the Ukrainian pianist Nadia Giliova would be giving a recital at the Leconfield Hall, Petworth, sponsored by a member of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust for the benefit of the Wiggonholt Association.

(e) A Public Forum: "Public Transport we would ALL use", was planned for the autumn at Pulborough Village Hall. Also in the pipeline was a Public Forum on Recycling (with its concomitant, landfill).

EVENTS ON OFFER TO ASSESS TAKERS:

(a) An afternoon boat trip in the second half of July between Houghton Bridge and Arundel was being explored. It would be in a 28-seater covered boat at a cost of £18 per person or £30 for a couple, allowing an hour or two in Arundel.

(b) A DVD of the outstanding film of the Prokofiev ballet *Romeo and Juliet* to be screened free of charge to members at Rackham Village Hall in August.

(c) A day visit to Mottisfont Abbey (near Romsey) and the National Rose Collection at a cost of £35 to include lunch.

DETAILS OF ALL THE ABOVE WOULD BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

8. Any other business: Michael Pirkis recommended inviting the Sandgate Society to Esmond Turner's forthcoming talk on Landscape Character and this was agreed. As there was no further business, the meeting was concluded.

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There followed a most enjoyable and stimulating illustrated presentation about the ecology of the Wey and Arun Canal by Michael Joseph, ably assisted by Robert Joseph who had produced fascinating animated footage. This presentation also gave the audience much food for thought about their own gardening philosophy and practice.