



(Draft) Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Findon

Present

Executive Committee:

Helena Buqué – President; Gerald S. Hibbs – Chairman; Chris Frost – Vice Chairman; Ian Hollyhomes – Treasurer & Membership Secretary; Ian R. Watts – Secretary; Tessa McCormick; Irene Adams; Caroline Hill; Michael Drakeford

Members:

Gay Hibbs; Alan Holmes; Gay Holmes; Gwyneth Frost; Richard Adams; Lindy Laker; Graham & Gill Gostick; Richard & Liz Pratt; Peter & Val Kirk; Ross Rebbeck and Liz Henderson

1. Welcome

All those present were welcomed by Helena Buqué and Gerald Hibbs.

2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Bamford; Nicola Nathan; Chris Buque; Rhoderick Henderson; Colin Cox; Monica Eastabrook; Sue Davis; Jennifer Goddard; Nancy & Sid Ford; Richard & Sue Bell; Tony & Barbara Brimyard.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous AGM 16th October 2021

In an attempt to save unnecessary administrative costs, copies of the Minutes were sent together with the Agenda by the Membership Secretary Ian Hollyhomes on 28th September and members were invited to request printed copies to be sent to them by exception and on request. No printed copies were requested and approval of them was proposed by Michael Drakeford and seconded by Tessa McCormick. Both the Chairman and the Secretary signed a copy for safe keeping.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

5. Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary emailed on the 28th September or where appropriate manually, a notice to all the members advising the date, time and venue for this AGM and an advert placed in the Findon News October edition. There were also posters placed around the village, including here at the Church, The Village Store and Peckhams the Butchers shop, advertising today's AGM.

In addition, the charity by law, has to provide a Report identifying: -

- The charity's Aims & Objectives which will be covered in this report
- Fund raising activities completed to date since 11th October 2021 and proposed fund-raising events for the ensuing year – to be included in the Chairman's report
- The Financial results for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

6. Aims & Objectives

The Objectives of the Friends are set out on the first page of our Constitution, which in essence states we are to raise Capital Expenditure funds to preserve and protect the building of St John the Baptist Church Findon and its grounds. The Executive Committee work with the Church Wardens to ascertain what Capital Expenditure we can help out on in order to keep our ancient building in good repair. This year the focus, albeit severely constrained due to the Global Pandemic, has been on a project to repair and maintain the front porch and entry to the church.

The committee's priorities have therefore been: -

- Encouraging those living and having association with our village, to become members of the Friends and particularly to attract those not being regular churchgoers
- Organising and promoting Fund raising events
- Keeping members and the local people fully informed on social and fund-raising events through our website, social and local media

7. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee in accordance with the Constitution has consisted of:-

- 5 Honorary Officers – The President, The Chairman, The Vice Chairman (Chris Frost who joined us last year just after the AGM – he listened to my plea last October and volunteered immediately after the AGM), The Secretary, The Treasurer who is also The Membership Secretary and
- 6 Co-opted members which reduced to 5 due to the resignation of Monica Eastabrook in June this year.
- 1 Church Warden, our very own Michael Drakeford

We are looking ideally therefore for one more volunteer to join us on the committee to give us maximum numbers in line with our constitution; please don't hesitate to offer your election to the committee which I can assure you is not the most onerous task particularly when compared with the requirements of many other local organisations.

*The Constitution states that not less than 3 or more than 8 elected members may be part of the Executive Committee.

8. Committee Meetings

There have been 8 committee meetings since the last AGM which more than satisfies our constitutional requirement to 'meet not less than 4 times a year'

Executive Committee Nominations for 2022 / 2023

As I have already highlighted, we would very much welcome a further candidate to join our existing Executive Committee, who have all agreed to stand for election for a further year so wish to be considered and voted for and may I remind you they are -

- **President** – Helena Buqué
- **Chairman** – Gerald S. Hibbs
- **Vice Chairman** – Chris Frost
- **Secretary** – Ian R. Watts
- **Treasurer & Membership Secretary** – Ian Hollyhomes

- **Co-Opted Members** - Tessa McCormick, Colin Cox, Caroline Hill, Irene Adams & Rhoderick Henderson

In accordance with our constitution, the elected Church Wardens of the time of St John the Baptist Church Findon, automatically become members of the Executive Committee. The current Church Warden as many of you will know is Michael Drakeford.

9. Treasurer's Report

Ian Hollyhomes advised that the financial accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis reflecting all monies passing through the Friend's bank accounts during the period. During the year we received the Gift Aid payment from HMRC for the previous financial year for £999 with the claim for 2021/2 expected to be in the region of £500. This lower figure is a consequence of reduced qualifying membership fees and donations.

Our income exceeded our outgoings by £3,727 increasing our reserves at the balance sheet date to £18,990. The period was still largely impacted by the pandemic restricting our fund raising activities to the Stool Ball competition - held on Nepcote Green, the brief opening and closing ceremony for the Sheep Fair 2021 (provision of refreshments) and the Christmas Tree festival at St John the Baptist Church Findon. Apart from the cost of refreshments associated with the above, our outgoings were very limited, amounting in total to £341 covering the cost of our Community Insurance (employees and public liability cover) and website domain site and maintenance charge.

Post the year end and with the Covid lockdown relaxation we have recommenced and increased our fund raising activities which have been both very successful and financially beneficial. These are commented on in our Chairman's Report but suffice to say our reserves have been boosted considerably, now exceeding £23,000.

Although there was no donation/distribution to St John's during the year the charity is well placed to meet future demands in line with our constitutional purposes.

As always, we continue to look for new members to maintain our regular income level especially as we inevitably lose friends from time to time.

Lastly, I would like to express the committee's thanks to Ken Elliott for once again examining and approving our accounts and move that they be formally adopted as listed at item 10 in the agenda.

Proposed the accounts be adopted by Helena Buqué and seconded by Graham Gostick.

10. Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to report on a very successful year which included our first ever car rally held at the beautiful setting of Findon Place. Special thanks go Caroline Hill and we were blessed with good weather and a wonderful variety of cars and motor cycles all of which made the day so good.

It has been proposed that we stage the future car rallies every other year and plan to alternate with the Christmas Tree Festival. This means we will be holding the next Rally on 6th May 2024 and the Christmas Tree Festival at Christmas 2023.

Other events in the current year included the Golf Day, with The Claret Jug Trophy going to Tim Fleming's Nepcote Warriors. Our thanks go to Ann Hollyhomes and Gay Hibbs for their

fund raising efforts on the day, plus we were delighted to have the day sponsored by The Black Horse. Plans are in place to arrange a further golf day in 2023.

Another outstanding fund raiser this year took place at the Sheep Fair where we were pleased to arrange and serve the refreshments on the day. We are grateful to all the volunteers who served teas, coffees, cakes, plus barbecued bangers and burgers. We were pleased to be a part of the Sheep Fair which enjoyed a wonderful day and we would be delighted to do the refreshments again in 2023.

Another event is planned in the form of a quiz night to be held in the village hall with 10 teams of 6 people. Probable date is mid-February for the Quiz and a Fish and Chip supper.

All of this has been possible due to the hard work and cheerful approach from the officers and committee members and thanks go to, Helena, Ian Watts, Ian Hollyhomes, Chris Frost, Caroline Hill, Tessa McCormick, Rhoderick Henderson, Irene Adams, Colin Cox, Michael Drakeford, and finally special thanks to Monica Easterbrook who has stood down after 5 years of helping in various ways. Thank you Monica, for all you have done.

11. Questions Arising

None

12. Election of Executive Committee

As advised earlier in the Secretary's Report, we would very much welcome a further candidate to join our existing Executive Committee and the existing Executive Committee wish to be considered and voted for: -

- **President** – Helena M. Buqué
- **Chairman** – Gerald S. Hibbs
- **Vice Chairman** – Chris Frost
- **Secretary** – Ian R. Watts
- **Treasurer & Membership Secretary** – Ian C. Hollyhomes
- **Co-Opted Members** – Tessa McCormick, Colin Cox, Rhoderick Henderson, Irene Adams & Caroline Hill

In accordance with the Constitution, the elected Church Wardens of the time of St John the Baptist Church Findon automatically become members of the Executive Committee. The current Church Warden is Michael Drakeford.

In order to accelerate the process, it was agreed – proposed by Peter Kirk and seconded by Gwyneth Frost - to elect the proposed Executive Committee en bloc as detailed above.

All nominations were duly elected en bloc – proposed by Graham Gostick and seconded by Caroline Hill.

13. Re-appointment of Examiner

The examiner Ken Elliott of Findon Accountancy had advised his willingness to continue to serve as Examiner.

Proposed by Tessa McCormick and seconded by Michael Drakeford.

14. A.O.B.

Helena Buqué registered her thanks for the hard work and Chairmanship of Gerald Hibbs.

Michael Drakeford gave an interesting and detailed summary of the various projects currently in place to preserve and protect the church building and its grounds which also highlighted the importance of the financial support that The Friends can make every year.

The meeting finished at 15.33

