

**Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting of
The Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Findon
Sunday 15th October 2023**



Present

Executive Committee:

Helena M. Buque – President Gerald S. Hibbs – Chairman Chris Frost – Vice Chairman
Ian Hollyhomes – Treasurer & Membership Secretary Ian R. Watts – Secretary
Tessa McCormick – Irene Adams – Rhoderick Henderson

Members:

Gay Hibbs; Alan Holmes; Lindy Laker; Graham & Gill Gostick; Liz Pratt; Anne Thomas; Liz Henderson;
Michael Drakeford; Richard & Sue Bell; John Haskey; John & Janet Scadgell and Chris Buque

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies for absence

Colin Cox; Gwyneth Frost; Caroline Hill; Andrew Farqueson and Jennifer Goddard.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous AGM 23rd October 2022

In an attempt to save unnecessary administrative costs and in keeping with last year, copies of the Minutes were sent together with the Agenda by the Membership Secretary Ian Hollyhomes on 17th September.

Approval of the minutes proposed by Alan Holmes and seconded by Gill Gostick. Both the Chairman and the Secretary signed a copy for safe keeping.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary emailed on the 17th September a notice to all the members advising the date, time and venue for this AGM and an advert placed in the Findon News September edition. There were also posters placed around the village, including here at the Church, The Village Store and Peckham's Butchers, 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 2022 will be included in the Treasurers Report and proposed fund-raising events for the ensuing year will be included in the Chairman's report
- The Financial results for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

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.

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 or who have recently moved to the village
- 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 – Helena Buque, The Chairman – Gerald Hibbs, The Vice Chairman – Chris Frost, The Secretary – Ian Watts, The Treasurer who is also The Membership Secretary – Ian Hollyhomes and
- 5 Co-opted members - Tessa McCormick, Colin Cox, Caroline Hill, Irene Adams & Rhoderick Henderson
- The elected Church Wardens of the time of St John the Baptist church Findon, automatically become members of the Executive Committee. Our Church Warden was until recently Michael Drakeford.

We are therefore looking 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, as I commented last year, 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 2023 / 2024

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.

9. Treasurer's Report

Ian Hollyhomes advised that the income for the year was £10,431 compared with £5,818 for the previous period. The substantial increase stems from a return to a more normal level of fund-raising activity post the Covid pandemic.

Events included a Golf Day, Classic Car Rally, a quiz night at the Village Hall and the Sheep Fair refreshments in September last year. Profits from these activities came to £4,280. In addition, our

net income included membership fees of £2,130, HMRC Gift Aid of £473 plus small donations and interest.

So far this year we have held another successful Golf Day in May which raised £655, although unfortunately we lost just over £100 in pure cash terms in supporting last month's Sheep Fair. In many ways we encountered a perfect storm with an exceptionally hot day reducing the attendance, an increased number of stalls selling teas and coffees etc. and our location on the Green which was far from ideal in terms of passing footfall. On the plus side, we have a substantial stock of takeaway cups, tea and coffee, the combined value of which considerably exceeds the cash loss. These supplies are available for use in future events, boosting the income generated.

Our current balance exceeds £24,000 and we are waiting for the HMRC Gift Aid credit for last year of £576. This sum is after a donation of £2,000 to Findon Church towards the repair works carried out on the main doors and the purchase of two gazebos costing £1,200 for use in future outside fund raising events.

Copies of the accounts have been circulated which I'm pleased to confirm have now been signed by Ken Elliott, our Examiner.

On a completely different note, we are organising a church work party on 4th November, meeting at 10.00am for internal cleaning and tidying up the churchyard. Refreshments will be provided.

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 on the agenda.

Proposed the accounts be adopted by Graham Gostick and seconded by Irene Adams.

10. Chairman's Report

Gerald Hibbs said it was his pleasure to report another very successful year and to thank our Trustees and Elected Members for their helpful and ever cheerful attitude.

Our President Helena is an inspiration to us all and she is always there when needed.

Special thanks go our Secretary Ian Watts, and he takes care of all the paperwork and other constitutional matters.

Treasurer Is Ian Hollyhomes, who not only deals with financial matters, but he is forever helping with events and anything else that needs doing.

Vice Chairman Chris Frost is so helpful and is very good at liaising with the Sheep fair committee.

Caroline Hill has been not only very busy, but so generous in letting us use Findon Place for events and meetings.

Rhoderick Henderson together with his wife Elizabeth have done a sterling job in bringing the Website up to date.

Tessa McCormick, Irene Adams and Colin Cox serve as Elected Members and our thanks go to them all.

Whilst thanking people, Monica Easterbrook decided to step down but is still available to help with events and Posters. Thank you, Monica, for all you have done.

We continue with our idea to arrange events that the Village can come along to and have an enjoyable time with our fundraising happening as a bonus. Repeat events in the forthcoming year will include, another quiz night, the Christmas Tree Festival, Car Rally, Sheep Fair and Golf Day. We hope you will enjoy these and we look forward to seeing you.

Helena Buque also added her thanks for the hard work and Chairmanship by Gerald Hibbs which was endorsed by everybody present.

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. Buque
- **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 and 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.

In order to accelerate the process, it was agreed – proposed by Alan Holmes and seconded by John Haskey - to elect the proposed Executive Committee en bloc as detailed above.

All nominations were duly elected en bloc – proposed by Michael Drakeford and seconded by Liz Henderson.

13. Reappointment of Examiner

The examine,r Ken Elliott of Findon Accountancy, has advised his willingness to continue to serve as Examiner.

Proposed by John Haskey and Seconded by Chris Frost.

14. A.O.B.

Michael Drakeford gave an update of the various projects currently in place to preserve and protect the church building and its grounds, which again highlighted the importance of the financial support that The Friends can make every year. Reference was made to the newly installed main doors which, with the exception of one adverse comment, had received very positive feedback from parishioners.

Gerald Hibbs closed the meeting inviting everybody to stay for a cream tea or coffee and he thanked Gay Hibbs and Ann Hollyhomes for making the catering arrangements.

The meeting closed at 15.28.

