



Unconfirmed Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Southborough Society

Held on Tuesday 17th May 2011 at 8.00 pm in
Christ Church Hall, Broomhill Park Road, Southborough

1. Welcome

In accordance with the constitution, the Society's Annual General Meeting was chaired by its President, Colonel Maxwell Macfarlane. He opened the meeting, welcoming all present. There were 25 in total. He asked if there were any guests; there were two - everyone else declaring themselves to be a member of the Society. The President said the two guests were very welcome; however, they were not eligible to vote at the meeting.

The Agenda had been published in summary form in the Society's spring 2011 newsletter. Printed copies of the full Agenda, Minutes of the 2010 AGM, a membership subscription proposal, the Hon. Treasurer's report, and a statement of accounts for 2011 were also distributed at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

2.1 Acceptance of the Minutes

The President explained that a summary of the 41st Annual General Meeting had been published in the summer 2010 Newsletter. In fact, the Minutes had also been reviewed and agreed by the President and the Committee and published on the Society's website during the summer of 2010. No comments had been received, and there were none put forward at the meeting. Accordingly the President asked for a proposal that the Minutes be approved. This proposal was made by Mrs Jo Beech, seconded by Mrs Iris Veness, and was carried without objection.

2.2 Matters arising

The President then asked if there were any matters arising.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr Clive Tayler, said that the spring 2011 Newsletter had accidentally given the previous year's membership rates without the increase that had been agreed at the 2010 AGM. Also, some members had already renewed at the old rates. He presented a paper (attached as an appendix to these Minutes)

which explained how the Committee had arrived at new rates for 2011-12 (the 2010 AGM had left it to some extent to the Committee's discretion). This paper also explained a possible way to deal with the error in the Newsletter, by waiving the subscription increases, for existing members only, for one year until 2012. He asked the meeting if they wanted further clarification, but people said not. He asked if there was general agreement or not with the content of the paper, in terms of either the rates proposed by the Committee or the suggestion how to deal with the error.

Since there appeared to be general agreement, Mr Fred Scales proposed that the paper be agreed and adopted in full and without amendment; this was seconded by Ms Dianne Hill and carried with no objections.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred the meeting to his Message in the spring 2011 newsletter, where he had already reported on the Society's activities over the past year and indeed over the previous five years of his chairmanship. He explained that he was now standing down (at the end of the meeting), thanked the President for his support, and expressed his appreciation for all the hard work and enthusiasm of the Executive Committee, the Membership Secretary and many others who had contributed to the achievements of the Society during the past 12 months and over the last five years. He named many of the individuals concerned, and asked for and received a round of applause for them all for their contributions.

The President thanked the Chairman for his leadership of the Committee; he said that memorable highlights for him in recent years had included the 40th Anniversary Garden Party and the redesign and redevelopment of the Newsletter in full colour. He presented the Chairman with two gifts as a token of the Society's appreciation.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The President explained that a new Hon. Treasurer, Mr Shahbaz Khan, had been co-opted by the Executive Committee during the 2010-11 financial year. Mr Khan had given his apologies for not attending the AGM in person, however he had prepared a written report.

The Chairman explained he quite understood the reasons why Mr Khan was unable to attend the meeting due to his work commitments.

He explained that the printed copies of the accounts were unsigned, however he had with him the copy signed by the independent examiner if any member wished to see it. He had also examined the accounts personally.

He summarised the main points of the Hon. Treasurer's report, and said he was happy to answer any questions on the accounts. He highlighted that the Society was continuing to benefit from tax refunds, and appealed to all tax paying members to complete the gift aid declaration.

He said he particularly wanted to express his thanks, and that of all the Committee, to Mr John Godfrey of Preston, Lancashire for his very generous donation of £250.00 to the

Society in 2010 in memory of his mother, the late Mrs G K Godfrey who had lived in Southborough for most of her 88 years and loved the town. He explained that the Committee was still deciding how best to use the donation. They wanted something that would be a lasting reminder of Mrs Godfrey if possible, rather than simply a donation into general funds. He called on those present, and all members, to put forward ideas.

Mrs Iris Veness asked how members were to know whether they had signed the gift aid declaration or not. The Chairman said the forms were processed by the Membership Secretary, and he suggested that anyone who was not sure should e-mail or phone her.

In answer to a question why the photographic competition costs had fallen, the Chairman explained that these costs mainly represented the money (cheques) awarded as prizes, and fewer prizes were awarded in 2010 compared with the previous year.

In answer to a question about insurance cover, the Chairman explained that this cover was primarily for the Society's public liability insurance. He reminded the meeting that the Society not only organised public events but also owned land in the town.

The adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's report and the accounts for the year to 31 March 2011 was proposed by Mrs Fiona Woodfield, seconded by Mr Geoffrey Smethurst and carried with no objections.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Rachel Boughton, the Membership Secretary, and therefore the Chairman of the Committee gave a verbal report. He said he had received a report of the new membership numbers from the Membership Secretary. This showed that there were currently 404 members from 273 households. This compared with 430 members in 2010 (membership up mainly as a result of the 2009 Garden Party), and 414 members in 2009.

The Chairman took the opportunity to make another plea to members to pay their 2011 subscriptions if they had not already done so, and to notify their e-mail address to the Membership Secretary if they had one, for easier communication.

The Chairman thanked the Membership Secretary for her invaluable and highly efficient work in enrolling new members, and maintaining the membership rolls and related Society records. He also expressed appreciation to the former Hon. Treasurer, Mr Michael Webb, for his continuing work with the Gift Aid tax reclaims.

6. Election of Officers and other Executive Committee Members for 2011-2012

The President asked for nominations for the post of Chairman of the Society's Executive Committee. Mrs Jo Beech said that she would like to propose **Mr Matthew Salomonson**, a member and resident in the town who like the outgoing Chairman had experience in both management and charring committees. No one else put themselves forward to be Chairman, and there were no other nominations. Mrs Beech's proposal was seconded by both Mr John Kennedy and Mrs Kathy Chaney, and was carried with no objections.

The President asked for volunteers or nominations for the post of Vice Chairman. There were none.

The President asked for volunteers or nominations for the post of Hon. Secretary. There were none.

The President said **Mr Shahbaz Khan** had offered to continue as Hon. Treasurer. He was proposed for this role by Mrs Jo Beech, the proposal was seconded by Mr Geoffrey Smethurst and carried with no objections.

The President then explained that six of the 2010-11 Committee had offered themselves for re-election in 2011-12: **Mrs Jo Beech, Mr Michael Howes, Mr John Kennedy, Mr Ian Kinghorn, Mr Bill Lush, and Mrs Enid Wood**. The election of these Committee members was proposed by Mr Matthew Salomonson, seconded by Mrs Kathy Chaney, and carried with no-one against.

The President called for other volunteers to the Executive Committee, as there were still up to two places to fill. However, there were no volunteers or nominations.

The President thanked all the members for volunteering. The Committee would need to address the issue of lack of Officers.

The Chairman asked it be recorded that **Mrs Rachel Boughton** had confirmed her willingness to continue as Membership Secretary however, as in past years, not as a member of the Executive Committee. There were no objections.

7. Election of the Independent Examiners

The President explained that **Mr John White** had agreed to continue to act in this capacity in 2011-12. There were no objections.

The President explained that **Mr Clive Tayler** had offered to act as the second independent examiner. He was duly proposed by Ms Dianne Hill, the proposal was seconded by Ms Jo Beech, and carried with no objections.

8. Any Other Competent Business

The President explained that the Society had recently invested in a new gazebo, in order to better show its exhibits and items for sale at summer fetes; however, when not required, this marquee was also being offered to members of the Society for hire for private functions at a very reasonable cost of £10 per day. Anyone interested should contact him in the first instance (contact details in the newsletter)

The President appealed for helpers when the Society exhibited at local galas and fetes. All too often, John Kennedy was left without any support. At the beginning and end of events, in particular, two people as a minimum were needed to erect / dismantle the gazebo. Two hours volunteering was all that was being asked of people.

Mrs Jo Beech appealed for other members to meet with her socially to discuss ideas for expanding the Society's events programme. She suggested this might be a good way to recruit new members, by offering talks or meetings on new subjects that might draw in

new people: perhaps about local farms or businesses in Southborough, or other ideas. Her contact details were in the newsletter.

The President appealed for more people to submit stories for the newsletter to the editor. He was sure there must be many members with memories of the 1900's who could share these recollections with the rest of the membership.

Finally, the outgoing Chairman said he was especially pleased to be handing over to Mr Matthew Salomonson; he would have his support if needed and was confident the new Committee would also show their support for the new Chairman. He wished him well in the role.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at approximately 9.10 pm.

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting, the President gave an interesting slide show and talk entitled "Unusual but interesting aspects of Southborough and High Brooms".

Immediate Past Chairman's Postscript, Tuesday 24 May 2011:

These unconfirmed Minutes of the Society's 2011 AGM have been reviewed and approved by both the immediate past Chairman and by the President. They are expected to be further reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.



Southborough Society 42nd Annual General Meeting

Subscription rates 2011-12

The subscription rates for membership of the Southborough Society have remained constant for a number of years – effectively reducing the Society’s income in real terms.

Members voted at the 2010 AGM to increase subscription rates in 2011 by between 8 and 10 per cent, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, to catch up with the cumulative eroding effects of inflation. The new rates were expected to take effect from 1st April 2011.

The Committee discussed this matter and decided, for five-year membership, to apply increases of 9.5% for an individual and 8.3% for family membership, giving £23 and £36 respectively as the new rates. For one-year membership, the Committee calculated a 10% figure, but is proposing for ease of administration to round-up the resulting amounts to the nearest one pound. So, for individual membership 10% gives £5.50 and this rounds up to £6. For a family, 10% gives £8.80 and this rounds up to £9. The new rates are therefore summarised as follows:

THIS YEAR	1 year membership	5 years membership
Individual	£6 (previously £5)	£23 (previously £21)
Family	£9 (previously £8)	£36 (previously £33)

However, in the Spring 2011 members’ Newsletter, last year’s subscription rates were printed in error, instead of this year’s rates.

The Committee is therefore proposing to implement the new rates for this year for new members only. For existing members, the new rates will come into effect from 1st April 2012.

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