

DRAFT MINUTES – for confirmation at the 2022 AGM
Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Hills Society
Saturday 9th October at 11.00am
Memorial Hall, Wonersh

1. **Welcome** – The Chairman, Gordon Jackson, welcomed members to the 13th Annual General Meeting and thanked them for their continuing support. The meeting was attended by approximately 36 members.

2. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received from 7 members.

3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 9th February 2021**

The Minutes were agreed by the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman.

4. **Chairman’s Report** –The Chairman presented his report through a series of slides (which will be added to the website). In his report he explained the component parts of the AONB and how they fit together and support each other. He then continued by explaining to the meeting what the Society had done during the lockdowns and what events had taken place.

5. **Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021** – Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting and had been published on the website.

At last year’s AGM I commented that the accounts to 31/3/20 had covered the period right up to the start of the pandemic and so those accounts showed that the Society’s financial performance had been much the same as the prior year.

Now here we are a year later with accounts for a year which was affected from start to finish by the Covid pandemic and yet our accounts for the year reveal an improvement in financial performance compared to the prior year.

Much of this is down to the loyalty of our members, with membership revenue actually increasing and we thank all of our members for their continuing support during what was, and still is, a difficult time.

Income from other sources was, unsurprisingly much reduced. Our event programme was necessarily severely curtailed and other activities – talks and shows for example – were equally reduced or indeed non-existent for long periods of time. However these circumstances also meant a reduction in costs too.

So whilst our variable costs declined in line with the level of activity, those costs which are more fixed in nature also fell such that at the end of the year we were able to show a surplus of £5,802 compared to £1,714 the prior year.

Our net reserves at 3/3/21 stand at £44,027. In arriving at this net figure we take account of £6,817 which we hold in respect of Specific restricted purposes for which those funds have

been provided. The level of these funds gives a good indication of the fact that the Society is increasing its involvement with partner organisations to deliver a wider range of activity than has hitherto been the case. This trend is continuing into the current year.

The pandemic has been the catalyst for us to do things differently and I am sure that we will benefit from some of these new initiatives. In particular we are now issuing e-newsletters and we have also developed our capabilities to offer talks via Zoom.

Since the beginning of the current financial year we have seen a further improvement in our financial position. Our gross event income for the 6 month period to 30/9/21 is £5,576 whilst costs associated with those events were £2,633.15. Subscription income is robust and we now have the ability to take payments at events by way of a hand held credit card terminal which has undoubtedly led to more income being generated at shows and events. At Sept 30th our half – year surplus is £3,712.39.

I would like to end by thanking Moore Kingston Smith in Redhill for, once again, undertaking our audit on a pro – bono basis. This is valuable support that they provide to the Society and we hope that the relationship will continue for many years to come.

The Accounts were approved unanimously. Martin Cantor proposed and Gordon Jackson seconded.

6. **To confirm the appointment of the independent financial examiner for 2021/22** - The reappointment of David Montgomery of Moore Kingston Smith LLP was proposed by Martin Cantor and seconded by Gordon Jackson. It was approved unanimously.
7. **To set the annual membership subscription for 2023/2024** – The Chairman proposed that the membership fee remained unchanged for the coming year. This was proposed by Stella Cantor and seconded by Martin Cantor. It was approved unanimously. It was pointed out, however, that the present rates of subscription had been the same for several years and so during the year the Trustees would review the subscription rates and any increase would become effective from the start of the subscription year after that, ie from 1 April 2023.
8. **To appoint and reappoint Trustees of the Society.** Profiles were available on the website.
 - a) Martin Cantor and Sarah Jane Chimbwandira as Trustees, who are retiring by rotation were reappointed by the meeting.
 - b) The Chairmanship of Gordon Jackson recommended by the Trustees for 2021/22 was endorsed by the meeting
9. **To note the resignation** of Neil Maltby as President of the Society and to elect his replacement

The Chairman thanked Neil for all the years' service he had done for the Society. He had been the first Chairman and then became President. The Chairman presented Neil with a hamper of food produce by Surrey Hills Enterprises members tother with a bottle of Greyfriars Vineyard's sparkling wine. Neil was also given Life Membership of the Society

The Chairman then introduced the new President recommended by the Trustees, Chris Howard, currently one of our Vice Presidents. The meeting endorsed the Trustees recommendation with acclamation.

Neil then spoke briefly thanking the meeting for their kind gift and wishing the Society future well being

10. **Any other business**

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.