

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wivenhoe Society
Held on 23 March 2009
At the Nottage Maritime Institute**

Forty eight members were present, including the Committee.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs J.Allen, Miss J Barratt, Mrs F.Best, Mrs R.Blore, Mrs M.Britton, Prof H. Brogan, Dr. and Mrs Chapman, Karen Chumbley, Jane Cole, Andy Davy, Katie Epps, Tony Evans, Mrs. H.Farrow, Joe Gidman, Pam Glover, Mr and Mrs Guy, Mr and Mrs Heasman, Don Hirst, Mrs Jones, Mr M.Lewis, Mrs J.Long, Miss P.Randell, Mr and Mrs D.Rose, Mr and Mrs D.Sleightholme, John and Kate Standley, Iain and Jan Ward, Marian Wheatley, Sue Williams.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2008.

These were signed as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for her work during the year. He also expressed everyone's gratitude to Pat Smith and Jeannie Coverley for the excellent refreshments which they provide during the year. He drew the meeting's attention to two forthcoming events, a talk about the Woodland Trust on April 30th, and the Wivenhoe Walk on May 17th; tickets for both were available at the meeting. He also made a plea for more committee members.

4. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary summarised her report, which had already been circulated

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer summarised her previously circulated report . She thanked Martyn Lewis for acting as auditor, as well as producing and printing documents for the Society.

The Treasurer pointed out that £300 of last year's surplus of £788 was building society interest which could not be expected in the future. Running costs for insurance, hall hire, newsletters etc amounted to £1,550; subscriptions raised only £1,000, thus fund raising events were essential. The Treasurer also expressed the Society's gratitude to the Jubilee Youth Trust for a donation of £100, and to Edward Lyon for donating a percentage from the sales of the Wivenhoe calendar. She informed the meeting that the committee had decided to replace the two Wivenhoe Society noticeboards at a cost of £700.

7. Election of the Committee.

All the existing committee members were re-elected. Mrs Halcyon Palmer was also elected to the Committee.

8 Election of the auditor

Martyn Lewis was reappointed as auditor, with an appreciation of his work for the Society in the past year.

9. Subscription Rates

The Chair moved that subscription rates should remain the same; Austin Baines seconded this.

10. Draft Revised Constitution

Tom Roberts drew the attention of the meeting to two slightly amended sections of the draft constitution, viz:

5.1.3 “Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid by 30th September in each calendar year, notice of non receipt having been given.”

12.5.2 Payment to a Member may be made only.....”in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration return for services rendered and authorised by the Chair or Deputy Chair.”

Anthony Everitt asked if a meeting would have to be cancelled if the majority of the committee stayed away (9.2). It was felt that this was unlikely to happen.

Peter Richards requested that the constitution be adopted with an audit system attached to ensure that in the future changes were audited with a clear paper trail for changes. This was agreed and the meeting voted to adopt the constitution.

This concluded the formal part of the meeting

Points from the informal discussion which followed.

The felling of the library tree led Austin Baines to suggest that the Wivenhoe Society and Wivenhoe Town Council should look for a Tree Warden. France Richards volunteered to make enquiries.

Tom Roberts asked the membership to suggest how the Society could attract new members, but had to admit that asking Estate Agents to distribute membership leaflets had not been effective.

In response to a member’s question about Cooks’ Shipyard, Tom Roberts explained that as there was currently no market for new houses, developers could not be legally obliged to open up the jetty as not enough houses were occupied. Developers had also been given permission to retain closure of the footpath through the site. The recession was causing a similar stalemate with developments on the Cedric’s garage plot. Jackie Riley explained that the builder on the West Street plot was in breach of planning consent, any development on that site being similarly by the current economic downturn.

In response to a question about the Engine Shed, Peter Richards explained that the trustees were in the process of winding up their affairs and dispersing their remaining funds to arts projects.