

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wivenhoe Society**  
**24<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**Nottage Maritime Institute**

Fifty four members were present, including the members of the Committee.

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

S Williams, A Davy, L Silk, A Rowlands, H Eiden, J Blore, J Gidman, Y Veale, D Gibson, G Andrews, M Moore, B & I Baldwin, F Best, P & J Chapman, S Cooper, P & D Duffield, H Farrow, M Fletcher, J Vezza, B Harvey, B & M Heasman, M Kerr, Mr & Mrs Overton, E Peel, P & F Richards, E Wake, E Baines, B Connelly

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2009.**

These were signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising**

At the last AGM it had been agreed that the possibility of appointing a Tree Warden for Wivenhoe would be investigated by the Wivenhoe Society in conjunction with the Wivenhoe Town Council. No progress appeared to have made and Tom Roberts agreed to pursue this further with Wivenhoe Town Council.

**4. Chair's Report**

The following report was given by the Chair:

*Your committee is small, but I hope you will agree they are doing a great job. I'd like to thank in particular Helen Evans for her efficiency and hard work throughout the year as Secretary. For this AGM she has once again produced a comprehensive report which leaves me with little to say. Among other things, she will be saying a few words about the Parish Paths Partnership to which I must add that its establishment and very successful first few months are entirely down to Helen's infectious enthusiasm for the project.*

*My thanks also to Jane Black who, unusually for a treasurer, contributes a great deal more than book-keeping, coming up with ideas and getting her teeth into some planning issues.*

*Due to the recession, it has been a very quiet year on the planning front. There's been the detailed application for phase 3 of the shipyard development – outline permission had been granted a year before – and an application to renew the 5-year-old permission for the Cedric's site, on both of which we submitted observations. We also submitted our thoughts on an application to remove highway rights from part of the already narrow pavement at the Park Hotel and an attempt by the University to encroach on the 'green wedge'. The outcomes of these last two are still awaited*

**5. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary summarised her report, which had already been circulated at the meeting. This report will be printed in full in the next Wivenhoe Society Newsletter.

**6. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer summarised the previously circulated accounts. Following discussions

below, it was agreed that these accounts be adopted.

The social events had proved successful despite the current economic recession. The profits made from these events enabled the Society to continue to maintain subscriptions at their very low level. The Society donated £1,400 to the British Legion Wivenhoe Branch Building Fund using money from the Wivenhoe Open Gardens event and £732.50 raised by the Crabbing Competition was donated to the Youth Club. From general funds the Society gave £50 to the Nottage Institute, £25 to the Woodland Trust and £50 to the St John Ambulance. Thanks were given to The Queens Jubilee Youth Trust for their donation of £100 which went towards prizes for the Crabbing Competition and to Edward Lyons who donated £132 as a percentage of the profits from the sale of his calendars to the Society.

The current low rates of interest accounted for the fall in income from bank interest. Robin Calvert asked whether the Society had considered investing in National Savings as returns on these were index linked and, thus, 'inflation proofed'. Jane Black agreed to investigate further although she wondered whether these could provide the necessary instant access.

Martyn Lewis was thanked for acting as auditor, as well as for producing and printing documents for the Society.

## **7. Reports from any Sub Committees/Working Groups**

7.1 Barbara Connelly had sent her apologies and had submitted a report on behalf of the Crabbing Competition 2009 which was read out in her absence:

*We proudly presented the local Youth Group with a cheque for over £700 which was raised at the Annual Crabbing Competition, held along Wivenhoe Quayside on the first weekend of September.*

*The Youth Group was full of youngsters during the presentation of the cheque and organiser Chris Hurst was delighted that the Youth Group was chosen to receive the funds, which will help buy new facilities and craft material for the local children and teenagers.*

*The Crabbing Competition continues to grow in strength and popularity each year and is a fantastic fund raising event and family day out.*

*The year's event will be held on 12th September.*

7.2 A report on the Parish Paths Partnership Group was included in Item 5.

## **8. Re-election of Committee Officers and Members**

All the existing Officers and Members were re-elected unopposed.

## **9. Election of new Committee Member: Joan Sawyer**

Proposed by Tom Roberts. Seconded by Tony Evans. Elected unopposed.

## **10. Election of the Auditor**

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

### **11. Determination of Subscription Rates**

The Chair moved that subscription rates should remain the same. This was agreed, unopposed.

### **12. Revisions to the Constitution**

The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to two slight amendments (previously circulated). In section 8 of the Constitution, there had been an error in the numbering, this to be amended as shown. It had been agreed at the last AGM that some kind of audit system be put in place in order to ensure all future changes were audited with a clear paper trail for changes. It was proposed that a versioning page be placed at the end of the Constitution which would record draft amendments and approved versions against a date and file name. These amendments were agreed, the newly approved version of the Constitution to show the name '*Wivenhoe Society Constitution v2*' as a footer on each page.

### **13. Any Other Business**

Peter Kennedy had asked the meeting to consider whether the possibility of extending the 20 mph speed limit to cover more than just the lower end of Wivenhoe below the railway line was desirable and/or feasible.

Tom Roberts replied that he had attended a meeting to consider the '20's Plenty for Us' in September 2009 which had been formed in order to campaign for the implementation of 20 mph as the default speed limit on residential roads in the UK. There was some support for this nationally and Portsmouth had taken the initiative to introduce a default 20 mph speed limit through their town on all except main arterial routes. Clearly the two main roads in Wivenhoe (the spine road and Rectory Road) could never be included in such plans.

Austin Baines commented that there appeared to be some support for this idea in the area. Colchester Borough Council and the Colchester Civic Society had discussed it at their 'burning issues' meeting. Discussions had taken place within a Borough Council Task and Finish Group, although minutes appeared difficult to obtain.

Jackie Riley voiced opposition to the use of speed bumps. Alternatives were suggested: raised platforms at the entrances to roads off main roads; repeated 20 mph signs along roads etc.

Jane Valentine raised concerns about the dangers caused by bicycles speeding along the pavement outside her house. Tom Roberts reminded the meeting of the police/citizen liaison panel NAP (Neighbourhood Action Panel) which met regularly in Wivenhoe and suggested that concerns such as these should be raised with them in the first instance.

Moira Collett asked that it be noted that the date for the planned Wivenhoe Fun Day was 11 September, not 1 September as had been printed in the list of Wivenhoe Society Events, circulated with the AGM papers.

This concluded the formal part of the meeting which was followed by a talk from Jo Wheatley and Bob Mehew on '**Transition Wivenhoe**' and then some light refreshments.