

SLIPPER MILL POND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity No. 277744

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Emsworth Day Centre, South Street, Emsworth
Thursday, 18th October 2007 at 8:00pm

Present: Mr N. Madinaveitia (Chairman)
Mrs J. Warren (Hon. Secretary)
Mr M. Philips (Hon. Treasurer)
Miss B. Smith (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Mr R. Alexander
Mr P. Archer
Mr D. Brightwell
Mr G. Millar
30 Full Members

The Chairman welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending.

1 Apologies for Absence

Mr & Mrs C. Montague, Mrs S. Thompson-Coon, Mr M. Broomfield, Mr & Mrs S Buck, Mr D. Jones, Mrs M F Lyle, Revd. D. Bridge, Mrs P. Bowman, Mr A. Townsend, Mr & Mrs B. Hailstone, Mr M. Titley, Mr & Mrs J. Brown, Mrs H. Archer, Mr B. Fellows, Mr & Mrs J. Stamper, Mrs J. Millar, Mrs C. Brightwell, Mr D. Jones, Mr B. Gibb-Gray

2 Minutes of Previous A. G. M.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 20th October 2006, were agreed subject to the following amendments:

- i West Bank – Inside Face
“Experimental Planning Review” should read “Experimental Planting Review”.
- ii Flooding
Insert heading “Honorary Member” after Property.

3 Matters Arising

None

4 To Receive and Approve the Annual Report of the Chairman and Committee

4.1 General

Lt. Cdr. John Schofield, who supported the Association as Honorary Auditor over many years, died and was sorely missed.

Over the last 12 months the Association continued to be successful in raising the profile of and creating more interest in the pond.

The Pond had many visits from local schools again this year.

During the year the SMPPA had grants and assistance from, amongst others, the Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Chichester Wildfowlers.

4.2 Ecosystem

Gavin Millar reported that the ecosystem was in good order and that full details were reported regularly in the Newsletter.

It proved impractical to obtain reliable results when using chemical tests to check for water pollution. In reality the numbers of birds and fish demonstrated the strength of the ecosystem and were a much more reliable indicator of the health of the pond.

Gavin also presented the schedule of plants present and in flower which he had been recording fortnightly for the spring and summer. This schedule was available to all on the Web Site.

4.3 Maintaining of Gates and Banks

The SMPPA continued to ensure that the pond and its banks were kept in good order.

The Association's thanks were given to Peter Archer who regularly ensured there was no build-up of litter.

The Association continued keeping a watching brief on the surface of the path along the bank and reported any deterioration to WSCC.

The Pond was to be drained at the end of November for essential maintenance.

Items to be addressed included the sluice paddle which had been leaking and the eroded slipway at the North end of Slipper Road used regularly by Dr. Clifford Thorp to launch the dinghy for his research into the lagoon worm.

The Spillway, the North section of the West bank close to Chequer's Quay, which acted as a spillway, was being eroded, and would be refurbished in the Winter.

4.4 Special Projects

4.4.1 Web Site

The Web Site continued to be visited regularly, with a peak of nearly 9,000 hits in September.

It was kept up to date with the latest Newsletter and biodiversity information as they became available.

4.4.2 Display Panels

Thanks to the grant from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy the SMPPA was able to refurbish the panels at each end of the pond.

The base design of the original panels had been developed and with the help of David Urry the existing frames were repaired and finally re-fixed in the Spring.

4.4.3 West Bank Outside Face

4.4.3.1 Structure

Continuing difficulties in raising funding meant it was very probable that SMPPA might have to revert to a reactive approach rather than pro-active.

Bob Alexander explained that he had approached many charities in the past 12 months including:

Trusts and Charities consulted in the last 12 months include

- 1 Barbour Trust
- 2 J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust
- 3 Charles Hayward Foundation
- 4 Idlewild Trust
- 5 Goldsmiths
- 6 Kleinwort (Ernest) Charitable Trust
- 7 Linbury Trust
- 8 Monument Trust
- 9 Manifold Trust
- 10 Porter Foundation
- 11 Rausing Marit and Hans Foundation
- 12 Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
- 13 Garfield Weston Foundation
- 14 The Rural Trust
- 15 Esmee Fairburn Trust
- 16 Dulverton Trust
- 17 Panton Trust
- 18 The Body Shop Trust
- 19 Jephcott Charitable Trust

Responses from most were that the chances of a grant were 'unlikely' or 'very unlikely' (or even if possible were only in the region of ?100 to ?500). Reasons given ranged from 'National projects only' 'Geographical restrictions which do not include Hants/W. Sussex' 'Funds already committed on long term projects' or simply 'not our sort of thing'. A couple of Trusts had said they were 'reviewing their guidelines' but it was not 'expected they

would extend to the SMPPA's project'.

The SMPPA had, of course, also been in contact with Lottery funds without success and landfill tax grant investigations proved unsuccessful.

All possible paths were still being pursued but the Committee was not optimistic.

4.4.3.2 Land Ownership

The ownership of the Bank remained uncertain.

Bob Alexander reported that the advice about resolving the ownership issue received in a preliminary discussion with Biscoe's (the successors of Arnold Cooper and Tomkins – the SMPPA's original solicitors) had been confirmed in discussion with another solicitor.

After consultation with the Land registry and due consideration the committee had agreed to attempt to resolve the ownership without incurring costly formal legal advice.

4.4.4 **West Bank Inside Face - Reed Planting**

As agreed at the last AGM, Work Days had been held in January, February, and March to plant reeds from Peter Pond. In January frames for the plants and filling had been started but the volunteers were unable to complete the work in the time available that day. The following week there had been a storm which caused serious damage, which determined volunteers put right before the February workday. Finally in March the Sea Club Rush reeds had been cut from Peter Pond and planted in the completed frames.

The reeds had taken successfully and were being admired by all. Herons and Egrets used them as a base and many other birds were using them as an extension of their habitat.

There were still some 50 metres to finish and another work-day was planned for early in the Spring of 2008.

The SMPPA thanked Elizabeth Hollis for the reeds taken from Peter Pond, the Chichester Harbour Wildfowlers for helping and Chichester Harbour Conservancy for their generous grant which covered the costs for the purchased materials.

4.5 **Hermitage Housing**

The Sustainable Urban Drainage System pool continued not being of the capacity agreed in the Planning Approval and the SMPPA was pressing the Chichester District Council and the Environment Agency to resolve the matter.

4.6 **School Link**

The SMPPA had been invited to make a presentation to St. James' Primary School in the Summer which had stimulated considerable interest amongst the pupils. As part of their subsequent course work they had prepared artwork describing the pond which was used in

the last Newsletter and the presentation.

The children on their own initiative had collected ?76 for us which would be used to refurbish the southern bird raft

4.7 Spring Talk

The interesting talk entitled “British Army Life on Thorney Island” given by Lieutenant George Parton RA and 2nd Lieutenant Rachel Cameron-Dick RA had been enjoyed by some 30 members.

Following the invitation they gave at the meeting, 22 Association Members had enjoyed an afternoon tour of the base and Thorney Island on Tuesday, 3rd October.

Suggestions were invited for the 2008 Programme

4.8 External Group Participation

4.8.1 Market Town Initiative

The Initiative had been renamed the “Emsworth Town Partnership” and was a non political organisation of all interested groups, including the SMPPA, and was part of the national Market Town Initiative.

Current Projects included: Youth activities leaflet, Community street audit, Improvement of public toilets, Information & education centre for visitors & residents

4.8.2 Three Harbours and a Coastal Plain Action Group

West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and Chichester Harbour Conservancy were bringing together a local action group to apply for EU LEADER funding in conjunction with SEEDA. The SMPPA had registered our interest in joining them even though it did not seem likely that there would be financial support from them.

4.8.3 BTCV

The SMPPA had renewed its membership and insurance with them. The Association was a member of their Havant Conservation Forum and was preparing an update of the Group Review submission at present.

4.9 Administrative Matters

4.9.1 Management Plan

The Committee was using the 'Group Review Form' to update its Plan.

4.9.2 Solicitors

Biscoe's of Portsmouth had taken over the SMPPA's original solicitors, Arnold Cooper and Tompkins, and had offered to act as retained solicitors. The Committee was considering this proposal and the need to have retained solicitors.

4.10 The Next Year

4.10.1 Tasks

- Sluice Blade repair
- Sluice Tunnel Arch reinforcement
- Footpath/Spillway at Chequer's Quay
- Slipway rebuilding
- Bird Raft refurbishment
- West Bank Reed Planting – Work Day in the Spring

Routine

- Litter picking
- Shrub pruning
- Plant register
- Bird listing
- Check banks

Outward Issues

- Hermitage Housing SUDS scheme
- BTCV representation
- Emsworth Town Partnership
- Three Harbours
- Pollution monitoring

Administration

- Completing the Charity Commission Return
- Update SMPPA Management Plan
- Retained Solicitor
- Ownership of the South and West Banks
- Funding of West Bank Repairs
- Web Site

The Chairman had summed up by saying the Association had had another successful year and asked all present to join him in thanking the Committee and all the volunteers for their help and support during the past twelve months.

The Chairman's report was in the form of an illustrated presentation and was accepted by the members.

5 To Receive and Approve the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 30th September

2007

The Honorary Treasurer went through the accounts and invited any questions from the floor.

The accounts were agreed subject to being checked prior to their formal approval by an independent Inspector.

This was wholeheartedly agreed by those present. Acceptance of the suggestion was proposed by Bob Alexander and seconded by Margaret Bowden.

6 Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers and committee members were unanimously re-elected: Nick Madinaveitia (Hon. Chairman), Julie Warren (Hon. Secretary), Mark Philips (Hon. Treasurer), Betty Smith (Hon. Membership Secretary), Peter Archer.

7 Appointment of Honorary Inspector

Richard Burley agreed to act as independent Inspector of Accounts and his offer was agreed unanimously.

8 Any Other Business**8.1 Flooding**

There was to be a Flood Risk & Climate Change - WEA Talk at the Havant Arts Centre on Friday 7th November at 7.30pm - Speaker: Dr. Mike Bateman Chair Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee

8.2 Annual Dinner

Betty Smith thanked members for buying their tickets for the annual dinner and noted that some were still available from either her or Sarah Titley. Donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated.

8.3 Spring Talk

It was anticipated that the Spring Talk would take place in April next year. Suggestions for a speaker were welcomed

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Julie Warren (Mrs)
Hon. Secretary

29th October 2006

