



## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 25th October 2019 at Hewitts, South Street, Emsworth.

### **1. Welcome by the Chairman**

Nicholas Madinaveitia welcomed members to the meeting. He had explained at the previous Annual General Meeting that it was hoped that the present SMPPA charity (an Unincorporated Association) would shortly be handing over responsibility for Slipper Pond to SMPPA CIO (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Charity Commission had registered the CIO on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 but, unfortunately, it had not been possible in the available timescale to get a formal acceptance of the new constitution at that meeting and consequently the CIO had been dormant for the last year. However, the SMPPA CIO was still required to have an AGM, so this thirty seventh SMPPA AGM would be immediately followed by the first AGM for the SMPPA CIO.

### **2. Present**

Committee: Sharon Corbett, Simon Dwyer, Simon Eveleigh, Joanna Greenfield, James Hailstone, William Keeble, Gary Lamb, Nicholas Madinaveitia, Mark Phillips, Robert Turner.

Full Members: Mr and Mrs Baldwin, Miss Blake, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr Burley, Mr and Mrs Cairns, Mr Dwyer, Mr and Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Hailstone, Mrs Harris, Mr Hollins, Mrs C.Jones, Mrs Madinaveitia, Mr and Mrs Montague, Miss Robertson, Miss E.Smith, Ms J.Smith, Mr Turley, Mr and Mrs Urry, Mr and Mrs Whalley.

Associate Members: Mr and Mrs Armstrong, Mr and Mrs Gordon, Mrs Lonsdale, Mrs Mant, Dr Tilley, Miss P.Phillips, Mrs Twitchen, Mr and Mrs N.Yoward

24 out of a possible 63 voting households were represented at the meeting

Apologies for absence were received from 10 members

### **3. Minutes of the AGM of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

The Minutes of the last AGM had previously been circulated. There were no matters arising.

*The acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Richard Burley and seconded by Angela Brown. Voting was unanimously in favour.*

### **4. Chairman's Report**

#### **Ecosystem:**

The greater black-backed gulls on the southern raft successfully raised a pair of chicks, but the Canada geese on the main raft were not so lucky – their goslings disappeared within a few days. Our big concern is that up to three cygnets are reported to have been killed by dogs. We are working on signage to encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when walking round the Pond. In the Pond itself, large numbers of grey mullet could be seen throughout the year. On the banks the occasional rat has been observed and this year weasels were spotted as well.

The reed growth on the top of the east bank had become intrusive. It took a long while to receive the necessary approvals, but spraying eventually took place in September. The bank would be trimmed as usual by work parties in October or November. A sub-group has been set up to have a fresh look at the maintenance of the east bank and to consider various planting options.

## **Infrastructure:**

The footbridge had been refurbished with new handrails by our own volunteers at a fraction of the price quoted by contractors. We were aware that the uprights had a limited lifespan and that major work would be required on the bridge in the next ten years.

The sluice had reached the end of its life and needed replacing.

The Pond banks were in reasonable condition although a section of the South wall would need attention in the middle future. The crack in the west wall below the footbridge had had no significant movement over the past ten years.

There had been minimal flooding over the year. The high Spring tides coinciding with a small surge in early October had covered the West bank and briefly affected Queen Street and Lumley Road. More serious events in recent years had occurred when weather conditions had conspired to produce a surge greater than 30cm at the time of a high Spring tide.

The Environment Agency had been surveying the River Ems from the Downs villages southwards to the A259 to assess river capacity and measures to reduce flooding, and were expected to report in mid November.

The Dolphin Quay development had been proceeding, with steel sub-structure for the two separate dwellings being erected at the time of this meeting. The Queen Street Group had suggested that the SMPPA could be involved with a public dinghy slipway alongside the Dolphin Quay site, but we had declined this proposal as being outside the remit of the Association.

The planning application for the Westwood Grove development adjacent to the River Ems north of the A27 had been refused, but was still possibly subject to appeal.

## **Business Matters:**

Although the SMPPA CIO had been registered on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, it had been dormant since then awaiting formal approvals at this meeting. It was noted that the Pond Owners had agreed that the lease for the Pond would be transferred from the SMPPA to the SMPPA CIO.

At this point, Jim Hailstone, a Trustee for the Pond Owners, addressed the meeting in response to a question from the floor. He explained how in 1980 34 people, the Pond Owners, came to have shares in the Pond after purchasing it for £10000 to save it from development. The Pond Owners then granted a 99 year lease to the SMPPA to preserve and maintain the Pond. With the passage of time, the location of some of the shares is now unknown, a situation which is likely to get worse before the lease expires. A solution to this problem which is being discussed by the Pond Owners is that the Pond could be gifted to the SMPPA CIO.

Public liability insurance had been a major expense for the association, so we were grateful to Rob Turner for having negotiated a substantial reduction in premiums.

## **Broomfield Schools' Photographic Competition:**

This year's competition attracted a record entry of 126 photos from 33 pupils in six local primary schools. The standard was high and the judges, Jeff Thatcher, Judith Cook and Jenny Tyson had a hard task choosing the winners. All the photos were exhibited at the prize giving at the Community Centre and remained on display as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail in May.

## **Social Events:**

The Annual Dinner in November 2018 was well attended with good food and in-house entertainment, and substantial funds were raised for the Association. The Spring Talk did not take place this year due to the difficulty of finding a suitable speaker. The Urrys were thanked for the use of their well-sheltered garden for a most enjoyable Summer Party in the sunshine.

*The acceptance of the Chairman's report was proposed by Simon Eveleigh and seconded by Angela Brown. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **5. Treasurer's Report.**

Copies of the Financial Statement for the Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were circulated and Mark Phillips drew attention to items of interest:

### **EXPENDITURE:**

A significant amount of money had been spent on the Pond: £902 on the bridge refurbishment, £468 on spraying the reeds and £141 on developing signage round the Pond.

The cost of our Public Liability Insurances had decreased considerably following Rob Turner's negotiations with Zurich: SMPPA £307 (down £73) and Pond Owners £130 (down £516).

The Conservation Volunteers had had a grant from the Lottery Fund and gave us a free subscription for the year saving £38.

The £308 expenses for the Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition were higher than the previous year, but this was due to the record number of photos entered.

### **INCOME:**

Similar to previous years, our fund raising brought in about £2000, consisting of £1245 from subscriptions, £126 from small donations, and a profit of around £600 from the Dinner.

This year's Gift Aid was £482, double the normal amount because it covered two years.

Exceptional items of income this year included £200 from the West Sussex CC Footpaths Fund, a £72 charity donation from Adviser Business Solutions and a £2000 bequest from the late Suzy Thompson-Coon.

### **STATE OF FUNDS:**

A Surplus of £2287.10 over the year - almost entirely due to the Thompson-Coon Bequest.

Total Funds £16257.99. (Of which £928.64 reserved for Broomfield Photographic Competition).

Thanks were due to Colin Montague for examining and approving the accounts.

## **6. Approval of the Financial Statement**

*Acceptance of the year's accounts was proposed by Helen Yoward and seconded by Jan Urry. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **7. Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee.**

The Chairman - Nick Madinaveitia, the Hon Membership Secretary – Sharon Corbett, the Hon Social Secretary - Jo Greenfield and the Hon Treasurer – Mark Phillips – as well as Bill Keeble and Simon Eveleigh all retired in accordance with the Constitution, and offered themselves for re-election.

Jim Hailstone and Simon Dwyer (co-opted committee members) offered themselves for election.

*The motion to approve the election of all the above (proposed by Helen Yoward, seconded by Harry Baldwin) was carried unanimously.*

Rob Turner had resigned from the committee. His many years on the committee with particular responsibility for work parties, insurance and drafting of the CIO constitution had been greatly appreciated.

## **8. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner for the Association's Accounts.**

Colin Montague was thanked for his service over the year.

*His re-election was approved unanimously. (Proposed: Angela Brown, Seconded: Richard Burley).*

## **9. Approval of the Constitution of SMPPA CIO and transfer of responsibilities**

Copies of the Constitution for the new CIO had been circulated to members of the SMPPA but this was the first opportunity for formal approval. Formal confirmation was required that current SMPPA officers would have the same role in the SMPPA CIO. Formal confirmation was required to permit the SMPPA CIO to take over all the duties and responsibilities of the SMPPA.

*The motion (proposed by Colin Montague, seconded by David Urry) to approve the SMPPA CIO constitution, to confirm the appointment of the SMPPA CIO officers, and agree to the SMPPA CIO taking over the duties of the SMPPA was passed unanimously.*

## **10. Any Other Business.**

It was noted that SMPPA was still active and would remain so until all functions had been transferred to the SMPPA CIO and a formal winding up meeting had been held.

*The Meeting closed at 8.40pm.*