

Annual General Meeting - Monday 31 March 2025, 8pm
North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green

Chaired by our Honorary President Claire Taylor

All are warmly welcome however only members of the Society can vote

AGENDA

AGM 2025

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 March 2024
2. To deal with Matters Arising from those Minutes
3. To receive the Chairman's Report
4. The presentation of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members
6. Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts
7. Any other business

To be followed by a presentation about local development and the Local Plan with an opportunity for questions and discussion

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held at the North Mymms Memorial Hall, Welham Green on Monday 18 March 2024

Welcome.

Gary Mabbutt, President welcomed local councilors, members and residents and thanked them for attending. He also welcomed the speaker, Simon Marsh, Planning and Policy Manager of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

He began by complimenting the Committee on their efforts throughout the year and reiterated the importance of protecting the Green Belt and the ethos behind its formation in 1935.

1. Minutes of the previous AGM:

Minutes of the 2023 AGM, proposed by Claire Taylor and seconded by John Salmon, were agreed and signed with no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

Nigel Our Chairman, Nigel Matthews presented his report on events that had taken place over the past year. The big event of the year has been the adoption of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan by the Council. Although not a particularly good outcome, either for the Parish or for the Borough as a whole but from a Green Belt perspective, it could have been a lot worse. Nigel stressed that without local engagement the outcome would have been an even more serious impact on the Green Belt. The chief advantage of the Plan is that it will deter speculative applications for development on sites not included in the Plan.

One major success was the planning Appeal for the site in Bradmore Way. The Inspector upheld the Council's refusal of permission which was a very welcome outcome and emphasised just how important the Green Belt is in this area.

On a lighter note, Nigel reported that the Society planted a tree in May of last year in memory of Clive Bennett, a lifelong Vice President and Committee Member. The tree is planted in the Platinum Jubilee Garden in the Welham Green Recreation Ground.

Closing his report, Nigel extended thanks to Gary, President, Jed Griffiths, professional planning advisor, John Salmon, who moderates the accounts and to all those members who deliver our annual AGM newsletter. Also, he gave thanks to the Committee Members. Special thanks were given to Alex Brown who is stepping down for health reasons. All the other Officers and Committee Members were willing to continue with the addition of two new recruits, Trina Golland and Mark Lambourne.

Approval of Chairman's Report. Proposed by Carol McCarthy and seconded by Paul Martin Connolly

3. Treasurer's Report

Carol White, Treasurer presented the Financial Statement to the 31 December 2023. She reported that subscriptions were slightly down from last year but donations were up. The main expense was for

planning advice. All other expenditure is kept to a minimum with the Committee freely donating their time and energy.

Nigel read out the Auditor's Report. There were no matters arising. Approval of Accounts. Proposed by Nigel Matthews and seconded by Paul Turner.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

The Officers and Committee were proposed by Paul Zukowskji and seconded by Jane Cartwright en bloc.

Chairman Nigel Matthews; Secretary Carol McCarthy, Treasurer Carol White, Committee Members: Claire Taylor (Vice President), Martin Connolly, Trina Golland, Az Khan, Mark Lamburne, Simon Polledri, Ish Syed and Paul Turner

5. Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts

The appointment of John Salmon as an Independent Reviewer of Accounts was proposed by Carol White and seconded by Nigel Matthews and approved by the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

A talk was given by Simon Marsh, Planning and Policy Manager of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

Gary thanked Simon Marsh for his interesting and informative talk, which was warmly applauded by the members.