



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON YACHT CLUB, OCEAN VILLAGE, SOUTHAMPTON
AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2009**

- PRESENT:** Mr. Peter Nicholson CBE, President,
Mr. Christopher Bland JP Vice-President,
Mr. Jeremy Clark, Chairman of the Council
Mr. Colin Brown FCA, Hon. Treasurer of the Council
and 13 other members of the Council.
Mrs. S. Preston-Davis Public Relations,
Mrs. J. Davies Secretary
and approximately 12 members of the Society
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies had been received from 6 members of the Council and 3 members of the Society.
- 1.MINUTES** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2008 at the Royal Solent Yacht Club, were proposed for adoption by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mrs. Evans and carried nem con
- 2.STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** The Hon.Treasurer presented the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June2009, and commented that the situation was similar to the previous year. The Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities were proposed for adoption by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Marris and carried nem con.
- 3.ELECTION OF PRESIDENT** Mr. Clark proposed that Mr. Nicholson be re-elected as President of the Society which was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried nem con.
- 4.ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS** Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Mr. Christopher Bland, Mr. Maldwin Drummond and Mr. Nicholas de Rothschild were proposed for re-election as Vice- Presidents by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Professor Forster and carried nem con.
- 5.ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS** The President advised that during the year Mr. Donald Biddle and Mrs. Sarah Fremantle had been co-opted to the Council. Mrs. Fremantle lives in Bembridge and has a BSc in Environmental Conservation and an MSc in coastal geomorphology and management. Her particular interests are estuaries, saltmarshes and the effects of climate change over an historical timeframe. Mr. Biddle also lives on the Isle of Wight and after a career as a Chartered Accountant is currently a Trustee of the Bembridge Harbour Trust. In addition Professor Malcolm Forster, who stood down in 2007, had also been co-opted to the Council. Mr. Clark proposed their election which was seconded by Mr. Madin and carried nem con.

Under the Rules of the Society one third of the members of the Council shall retire in order of date of election but such members shall be eligible for re-election. The

7 members due for re-election are: Mr. Clark, Mr. Davys, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Marris, Mr. Power and Mr. Rabbitts. All having indicated their willingness to stand Mr. Nicholson proposed their re-election en bloc which was seconded by Mr. Gerald and by a show of hands in favour and with no abstentions, was approved.

Mr. Clark advised that both Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Rhodes had decided to retire. Mr. Bradshaw had been a member of Council since 2003 and had devoted a huge amount of time and effort in dealing with matters which directly effected the Bembridge area. Mr. Rhodes, who was also Chairman of the Friends of Chichester Harbour, had kept the Society informed on matters relating to the Harbour. Their help would be missed and on behalf of all present Mr. Clark thanked them for their hard work.

6.ELECTION OF HON.TREASURER Mr. Nicholson proposed the re-election of Mr. Brown as Hon. Treasurer which was seconded by Mr. Marris and carried nem con..

7.ELECTION OF AUDITORS Mr. Nicholson proposed that Messrs. Hope Jones be re-appointed as auditors for the Society which was seconded by Mr. Gerald and carried nem con.

8.REPORTS Mr. Clark said that the letter which he had written and which had accompanied the AGM documents had outlined many of the current activities of the Council. A normal newsletter would be produced shortly but possibly not until the Marine Bill is law

During the year the Society's Conservation Award was presented to the Chichester Harbour East Head Coastal Advisory Group, to mark the work achieved by a small group in generating new thinking about coastal processes and causing Government agencies to be more flexible in their approach Two grants were given in the year, one to the Cobnor Activities Centre and the other to Langstone Harbour to help fund a visitors guide

The Solar Boat trip for members in July from Itchenor Sailing Club, followed by lunch had been a great success. It was a pleasure to meet a number of members and I hope that we can arrange a similar event in 2010. Your ideas would be welcome.

As a new Chairman I was, and remain concerned about the relations between the Council and the membership. Despite an appeal for e-mail addresses to save time, money and to ensure members know what the Council is doing, we were only partly successful in gathering about 20% of the membership. Membership is down on last year and I do urge you to do all you can to persuade your friends and relations to join and so to help us in our work

Council Members attended three conferences; Peter Hebard, A Coastal Futures Conference, Sarah Fremantle one on Coastal Communities at risk and Graham Rabbitts one on Coastal Planning Policy

We aim to invite a Speaker to join every other meeting to inform us on particular areas or concerns. This year there were 5 covering Chichester Harbour, North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, Bembridge Harbour and the Duver wall, The Pennington Marshes and Habitat creation, Coastal Squeeze and the position of Landowners

At the AGM last year we passed a resolution, which ended in the words " The SPS will seek such professional, legal and environmental help as it may require" We have tried but as yet we have not found it appropriate nor have we needed additional advice, but we are edging closer as we know of a proposal for further

work in the Lymington River, which, we feel, may have relevance to other parts of the Solent. We are keeping a close eye on that possibility. For the benefit of members who do not live in Lymington or Yarmouth, I think we all felt at last years AGM that by this AGM we would have known much more, and seen substantial movement in this matter. In practice there have been three substantive actions and a tremendous amount of necessary discussion

1 The ferries are running

2 The NFDC turned down a planning application for changes to the Lymington Terminal

3 The Government amended the Habitats regulations as a direct result of the Lymington Yarmouth Ferries to enable consideration of damage or disturbance to a special site as a consequence of a nearby plan or project

Currently we understand that Wightlink are in discussion with Natural England and the New Forrest District Council with a view to reaching an agreement of mitigation or compensation, which would entail replenishing or repairing saltmarsh. If that is agreed we expect a new planning application, but it seems likely that the compensation will not be agreed before the case for a judicial review brought by the Lymington River Association has been heard in December. We are aware of a meeting to be held shortly for stakeholders to consider a report by BMT Seatech concerning their observations on a peak weekend in the summer. This however will be concerned with operational and safety and not environmental matters.

We have responded to the consultation by ABP about their Port Master Plan. This plan assumes the expansion of Southampton Docks and the commercialisation of Dibden Bay. We expressed our concern on their proposals and about the consequent effects upon the Solent. We believe the consultation was premature because a policy statement by the government on the UK ports industry is awaited.

Finally a word about Local Development Frameworks and core Plans. The aim of the Council has been to ensure that the view from the water is considered when a local Authority receives a planning application. John Power, our Vice Chairman has done much work on the Isle of Wight where the plan considers the view around Ryde but nowhere else on the Island. We are trying to influence this policy

For a little light relief, I do not know how many of you know about Flickr, It is a photo library run by Google and Graham Rabbitts a Council member has opened a group on the Solent. There are now 1645 photographs including some which remind us, what a beautiful place the Solent is.

There is a modern way of assessing the health of a charity, which I alluded to last year. I am not sure if the Charity Commission has included it on the annual return but it is the number of e mails received by the Chairman. As in the last 11 months I have received One thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty, mostly from Council Members, I can assure you that the Solent Protection Society is in good health and your Council working very hard.

Mr. Nicholson then advised that it has been a very active year. He had attended most of the Council Meetings and some of the Ferry Sub-Committee meetings and been most impressed by members participation and the depth of their knowledge.

Mr. Nicholson said that there were three vacancies on Council. In particular more support was required in the Portsmouth area and he asked all present that if they knew of anyone who might be interested in helping to let the Secretary or other member of Council know. It was important that the Society looked after the wider Solent area.

9.ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

Referring to the new Wightlink ferries on the Lymington to Yarmouth run, Mr. Paton stated his concern at the fact that Wightlink were the designated

“competent authority”. He considered that New Forest National Park authority should be the competent authority.

Referring also to the ferries issue, Val Gwynn said that the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust was approached earlier this summer about a potential Saltmarsh recharge scheme on marshes it leases off the Pylewell coast; the aim of which was to provide mitigation for the potential damage that the new ferries may cause in the Lymington river. The Trust had concerns about both the design of the original scheme and the stated benefits that were associated with the recharge. The Trust made its views clear to NE and ABP-Mer and some elements of the scheme have been redesigned. Currently the Trust is assessing whether the revised scheme is one it can support.

Another member referred to the Lymington River study. Mr. Clark advised discussions were taking place between Southampton University and the Lymington Harbour Commissioners regarding silt movement. A presentation was to be made to the LHC on 16th November. This could be an area of interest to the Society and which might be appropriate for it to contribute funding.

There being no further questions from the floor Mr. Nicholson re-iterated Mr. Clark’s statement that the Society needed more members and asked those present to persuade friends and family to join the SPS.

Finally, the President thanked the Royal Southampton Yacht Club for allowing the Society to use its premises today for the AGM and also throughout the year for the use of their premises for the Society’s monthly meetings.

The meeting was declared closed