

SOLENT PROTECTION SOCIETY

Minutes of the Solent Protection Society Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 via Zoom video conferencing due to restrictions set by the Government for Covid-19

Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 3 December 2019

It was proposed that these minutes be accepted by Bob Stevenson and seconded by Richard Brown.

2. Annual Report and Statement

Dr Peter Henderson presented the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020, which had been distributed with the AGM mailing.

Dr Henderson highlighted a couple of key points in the report. As with the three previous years, the report had been prepared on a cash basis in accordance with the guidelines of the Charity Commission for small charities. Receipts and payments cover the period ending 30 June 2020. Two members of the Council had reviewed and discussed the report.

2020 was a typical year for the Society. Payments exceeded receipts by £1,573 which resulted in a small decline in the cash balance when compared with 2018-19. In 2018-19 a one-off tax refund and other exceptional items helped to produce a surplus of receipts over payments of £3,522. In 2020 we have consumed some of this surplus.

1. RECEIPTS – Total receipts for 2020 were £13,550. Subscription income was £7,372 a slight increase over the previous year. Dividend income was £4,307 also a slight increase from the previous year. When one-off and exceptional items are excluded, the accounts for 2020 are comparable to the previous year.

2. PAYMENTS: At £15,123 these were generally in line with previous years.

3. DONATIONS. In 2020 a donation of £1000 was made to the Marine Archaeology Trust. This one-off payment was the main difference from the previous year.

Dr Henderson reported on the overall financial position of SPS. There are clear uncertainties surrounding our economy, the total assets over liabilities for SPS have decreased from £122,645 to £105,376 between 2019 and 2020. However, SPS should be able to meet its ongoing obligations over the coming financial year, barring unforeseen circumstances.

Dr Henderson thanked Bob Comlay and Mike Rainey for their reviews and discussions as well as his predecessor Poh Chye Lim and Cassie Strang, the Hon secretary, for their assistance. Poh Chye has retired as Treasurer, but has continued to undertake some tasks in support of me because the handover has been delayed by Covid 19 regulations.

The President thanked Poh Chye Lim, retiring Treasurer, the hard work he had undertaken on the Society's behalf for the past five years and Dr Peter Henderson for taking on the role and preparing the report.

3. Election of President

Lord Montagu had confirmed he was prepared to continue as President and was therefore re-elected. This was proposed by David Sizer and seconded by Paul King.

4. Election of Vice-Presidents

Nicholas de Rothschild and Peter Nicholson had confirmed they were prepared to continue as Vice-Presidents of the Society. This was proposed by Richard Brown and seconded by Tim Kermode.

5. Election of Council Members

Lord Montagu advised that under the rules of the Society, one third of Council Members should retire in order of their date of election. Therefore, the members due for re-election in 2020 were Bill Pimlott, David Sizer, Jeremy Clark, Bob Stevenson, Paul King. Bill Pimlott had previously confirmed his retirement from Council. They were proposed by Rob Crighton and seconded by Poh Chye Lim.

Gerard Downes was formally elected to Council. This was proposed by Bob Stevenson and seconded by Bob Comlay. It was noted that Chris Edmond had been elected to Council in 2019 and therefore he was up for election this year in error.

6. Election of Honorary Treasurer:

It was confirmed that Dr Peter Henderson would be elected as Treasurer. This was proposed by David Sizer and seconded by Poh Chye Lim.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman of SPS, David Sizer, reported that his 2020 report had been circulated with the AGM papers and newsletter. The effect of Covid-19 and lockdown had created an unusual year, but the volume of work for SPS had not been affected and the monthly Council meetings had continued via Zoom video conferencing. He commented on the work undertaken by Mike Rainey on the Coastal Path plans; representation by SPS had created positive reaction from the authorities. There were two major planning applications impacting on Solent waters, Fawley Waterside and Marchwood, monitoring of these will take up quite some time for Council Members over the coming months. Mr Sizer commented that the Marchwood site was increasingly being used for stacking unused containers, although this could only be on a temporary basis before development. He reported that reinforcement work to Hurst Spit was continuing following storm damage to the spit and the castle itself.

The Chairman thanked the following :

Bill Pimlott for all his work for SPS, especially as Vice Chairman, having previously been Chairman, and also for maintaining the relationship between SPS and Solent Forum.

Bob Stevenson for the work he had put in into the Newsletter, which had received acclamation from numerous people.

Mike Rainey for his extensive work on the Coastal Path.

Paul King for the working in setting up a monitoring system for any proposed work on Solent shores.

Poh Chye Lim for the work he had put in as Treasurer over the last five years and for the smooth transfer to Peter Henderson.

Cassie Strang for her work as Secretary.

8. President's Remarks

The President thanked the Chairman for covering all matters very succinctly. He clarified that although the Chairman would be retiring in January, this would be his last AGM. He would like it noted at the AGM full appreciation for the work he had done as Chairman since 2017. Following the Chairman's summary of the Society's activities he noted that there were always issues for the Society to be concerned with, large and small. For those who had joined the AGM, the President noted that the Society is very much thinking about its role in the future and re-energising itself, which would coincide with the transfer of the role of Chairman, early next year.

9. Any Other Business

The President called for any other business.

Colin Brown queried what work Solent Forum had undertaken this year. Bill Pimlott responded that with the current situation with Covid-19 they had reigned back considerably and that there were some financial concerns, as some organisations had withdrawn funding due to the current economic climate. Members' meetings had continued, but Steering Group meetings were now bi-annual. He confirmed that SPS would remain a member of Solent Forum and that the Society was able to contribute to the Forum.

The President closed the meeting. He also thanked those who had attended this Annual General Meeting.

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