



Solent Protection Society

Minutes of the Solent Protection Society Annual General Meeting held on

Tuesday 3rd December 2024, 12pm

At the John Montagu Building, Beaulieu, courtesy of Lord Montagu

Present:

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (President)

Mike Samuelson

Peter Nicholson (Vice-President)

Tim Kermode

Chris Edmond (Chair)

Paul King

Bob Comlay (Vice Chair)

Sir Anthony Evans

Mike Rainey (Honorary Treasurer)

Sharon Morris

Richard Brown

Rebecca Turner (Secretary)

Duncan Purdie

Apologies: Neville Hill, Colin Brown, Rob Crighton

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5 December 2023

The Minutes were proposed by Bob Comlay and seconded by Mike Rainey, with the stipulation that the date of the Financial Report be updated to 2023. Agreed unanimously.

2. Annual Report and Statement for year ending 30th June 2024 (presented by Mike Rainey)

- Gift Aid returns are up to date.
- Year ends with a small positive balance due to period without secretarial costs, a bequest and use of Zoom for meetings.
- Slow membership decline, but donations continue to increase.
- Year ended with assets over liabilities of £139,000 which is £11,681 increase on the previous year and represents a recovery from the performance in the previous three years.
- In terms of investments, improvements in stock market and move to CCLA Charities Ethical Investment Fund have contributed to the SPS capital sum. Investment income accounts for approximately 25% of Society's income.

- Discussion regarding the use of those improving investments e.g. bursaries, with no conclusions. There are no changes to SPS relationship with Solent Forum.
- Bob Comlay suggested reinstatement of heritage awards in the new year, which could contribute to awareness-raising and donations. Mike Samuelson commended Mike Rainey on the accounts, which were reviewed by Tim Kermode and Richard Brown.
- The Report and Statement were proposed by Mike Samuelson and seconded by Tim Kermode. Agreed unanimously, with stipulation that the date and wording of assets/liabilities would be amended.

3. **Election of President**

Chris Edmond confirmed that Lord Montagu was prepared to stand as President for a further year. The re-election of Lord Montagu was proposed by Bob Comlay and seconded by Mike Rainey.

4. **Election of Vice-Presidents**

Lord Montagu confirmed that Nicholas de Rothschild and Peter Nicholson were prepared to stand as Vice-Presidents. Chris Edmond proposed their re-election, seconded by Richard Brown. Agreed unanimously.

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 following are eligible for re-election: Richard Brown, Tim Kermode and Robert Crighton. It was noted that Robert Crighton's election was subject to him accepting the nomination. Duncan Purdie proposed the re-elections and Bob Comlay seconded them. Agreed unanimously.

Welcome to Rebecca Turner as Secretary, pending completion of 1 month trial and receipt of references.

6. **Resignation**

Lord Montagu recognised Paul King's outstanding 25 years of service to SPS, following his resignation last month, and a unanimous vote of thanks was given.

7. **Election of Honorary Treasurer**

Mike Rainey elected as Interim Honorary Treasurer. This was proposed by Mike Samuelson and seconded by Bob Comlay. Agreed unanimously.

8. **Chair's Report**

1. A busy year for SPS has included:
 - Investigating and challenging data from large companies against a backdrop of changing legislation, inadequate infrastructure and environmental threats.
 - Focus on 37 high risk combined sewer outlets. The upgrading of Beachbuoy to Rivers and Sea Watch data has provided greater clarity for defining spills.

- Continuing concern over the Southern Water 'Water for Life' programme, which SPS is monitoring and responding to.
 - Significant amount of work to understand and challenge the ExxonMobil's proposals around carbon capture, which affected the Solent, New Forest, IoW and beyond.
2. Future and ongoing challenges include:
- Increase in new homes in the area.
 - National Infrastructure Development Consent Orders.
 - Need to increase new members and Council Members for SPS .
 - Requirement to inform members of topics discussed in meetings.

The chair thanked Lord Montagu for his support for the year and his hospitality for the AGM.

The Report was proposed by Paul King and seconded by Duncan Purdie. Agreed unanimously.

9. No changes to the Constitution were proposed.

10. President's Remarks

- Lord Montagu thanked the chairman for his report, which summarises the work carried out by SPS over the last year.
- The work completed by SPS has been well received by several groups and has helped to communicate the work of the Society. It is hoped that this will encourage more members to join the Society.
- Called on all present to identify and encourage potential new members.
- Room at Beaulieu is available to SPS when needed.

The meeting was closed at 12.50. A light lunch was served.