

The Beaconsfield Society
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004 HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL, BEACONSFIELD
ON THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2004 AT 8.00 PM**

1) Welcome by the President

John Gorton welcomed the speaker Saskia Hallam of the Civic Trust. He indicated that changes were foreseen in Local Government, which would reduce accountability at the local level. There was, therefore, a strong need for vibrant civic societies, which can have a significant effect on local authority decisions.

The President introduced the Society's Chairman to report on the past year.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Mr & Mrs Boggon, Jackie Dawes, Doug Manocha and Shirley Scrivener.

3) Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the 2003 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4) Chairman's report

Les Davies reported that the Society was in good heart and had capitalised on the changes made in the past year. The Society has the standing of the premier amenity society in the Town. The survey of planning issues with a 60% return has been used to guide the committee in responding to planning applications from both South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council. The information has also been used to input local opinion into the new local development documents of both councils.

The future of Wilton Park is still uncertain

Events have been arranged during the year: A visit to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance base, a talk from the Bucks Search and Rescue, a Town Walk in Windsor End led by the Town Crier, a visit to the Holtspur Bank Nature Reserve (cancelled due to a low take up), Heritage Day visit to Bulstrode Park.

A meeting of ANTAS (Association of North Thames Amenity Societies) was hosted in the Fitzwilliams Centre. Nineteen member Societies met to discuss issues and share best practice.

A meeting with local groups in Beaconsfield interested in the fabric of the Town was arranged and hosted by the Society.

The Trees & Town Group has now been merged in as a section of the Society.

The Society is very active removing illegal developers roadside signs.

The annual Awareness Day was a great success and is a flagship event in the Town.

Membership is declining and cost increasing, such as insurance. The committee recommends increasing the subscription to £10 per household.

Les is required by the constitution to stand down as chairman this year. He gave his thanks to the committee and particularly to Peter Richards and Linda Waite, who are standing down, for their support and hard work.

5) Treasurer's report

Nick Harrandell reported that the take-over of the accounts took some time due to the procedures used by our bankers for a change of authorised signatories for Society.

Nick presented the accounts and explained the main features of the year's report.

The balance had been increased by the inclusion of the funds from the Town & Trees Group but these funds would be ring fenced for activities previously carried out by the Group.

6) Subscription Increase

Nick then showed that expense had been exceeding income for some years, we had been living off a good balance in the bank. The basic costs of running the Society had been growing over the years without any corresponding growth of income. He made the case for increasing the subscription to £10 per household, which had been agreed by the committee in accord with the constitution of the Society. It had also been agreed that there should be one class of membership - Household.

7) Presentation of Society's awards

Les Davies reported that a number of new buildings had been proposed for the Outstanding Building of the Year. After due consideration the committee felt that none had the "Outstanding" quality and an award would not be made this year.

For the Outstanding Citizen of the Year there was consideration of a number of candidates but it was unanimously agreed that the award should go the John Page.

John has freely given years and years of unstinting service to Beaconsfield. As a School Governor, a County Councillor, Chairman of the Curzon Centre, an active Rotarian, a sidesman at St Mary's Church and with the Red Cross.

8) Election of officers and committee

The following nominations were received, and in the absence of other nominations, passed by the meeting unanimously.

Chairman : David Davies

Proposed: Les Davies Seconded: Michael Harrison

Vice Chairman : Les Davies

Proposed: David Davies Seconded: Alan Green

Hon. Treasurer : Nick Harrandell

Proposed: Shirley Scrivener Seconded: Doug Manocha

Hon. Secretary : Michael Harrison

Proposed: Nick Harrandell Seconded: Peter Richards

Committee members Proposed: en bloc by David Davies Seconded by Les Davies

Jackie Dawes, Alan Green, Doug Manocha, Shirley Scrivener.

Newly elected David Davies took the Chair and thanked Les Davies for looking after the Society so well in his five year term. David welcomed Geoff Grover, the Town Council representative, to the committee.

9) Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a talk on "The Civic Trust"

Given by Saskia Hallam, Head of Civic Societies at The Civic Trust.