



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Haydock Holiday Inn on
Thursday 29th January 2009

Committee Apologies: A Bull, A Park, I Sibbick, John Ogle

Peter Jones (President) welcomed members to the AGM

1 Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 29th January 2008 were accepted as a true record.

2 Treasurer's Report

Malcolm Beck (Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's report which had been circulated to those present at the meeting. The Annual Statement of Accounts indicated a Bank balance of £7,276.41 (cf £5,166.20 for 2007), with an overall surplus for the year of £2,110.21. The Treasurer explained the Income & Expenditure, highlighting that funding continued to improve due to increased membership with £550 already taken in membership subscriptions for 2009. The funds comfortably exceed the benchmark £1,000 minimum fund which was set last year to enable the Forum to hold its independent status should there be any funding issues if the partner had funding withdrawn. The finances are in a robust state. A proposal by Eric Patton seconded by Colin Webb was made to accept these accounts and was unanimously approved.

3 The President's Address

The President reported that membership had doubled in 2008 to just under 100 building on the success of the previous year. The quality and topicality of the presentations was reflected in the good ad hoc attendance.

The Forum is now in a strong position, thanks to the continued support of Envirolink, the efforts of the expanded committee and the growing membership. It was now time to hand over the presidency to new hands after 4 years, rather than the 1 year original term.

4 Election of Officers

In line with the Agenda

- a) President – Malcolm Beck was proposed by Barry Cassidy and seconded by Bob Bailey
- b) Honorary Secretary – Simon Barker was proposed by Barry Cassidy and seconded by Peter Gugas
- c) Honorary Treasurer – Peter Gugas was proposed by Malcolm Beck and seconded by Bob Bailey
- d) Committee Nomination – Colin Webb was proposed by Malcolm Beck and seconded by Peter Gugas.
- e) Committee Nomination – Mark Knowles was proposed by Andrew Park and seconded by Bob Bailey
- f) Ian Sibbick, David Hall, Eric Patton, Bob Bailey, Andrew Park, Peter Jones, Adrian Bull and John Ogle agreed to continue for 2009

The appointment of the two new committee members, Colin Webb and Mark Knowles, brings the committee up to full strength.

- 5 Membership
Subscriptions will remain at £25/annum entitling members to attend all events free. The meeting attendance fee for non-members will also remain at the current level of £15.
- 6 AOB
The President said there had been no uptake of AOB but asked if there was any other business – there was not. He reported that the dates for the coming year's presentations had been agreed and would be included in the minutes. The dates are as follows: 26/03/09, 28/05/09, 09/07/09, 24/09/09, 26/11/09 (Annual Conference) and 28/01/10 (AGM).
- He thanked members for their attendance, and handed proceedings over to the next President.
- Eric Patton took the opportunity to thank the out going President for his extended tenure taking the Forum from a social club to the current status with pertinent content and active and growing membership. This was unanimously received as a sound gesture and a round of applause.
- 7 New President
The new President made a brief statement, welcoming the opportunity to take the Forum on to the next stage of its growth, and expressing the hope that the Forum would still be active and celebrating its centenary in 2047. The President also reported that he hoped to identify a suitable candidate for Vice-President early in 2009 with the intention of handing over the Presidency from 2010.

Minutes prepared by Simon Barker, Honorary Secretary