

Friends of St. Peter's



Friends of St Peters Annual General Meeting Saturday 18 May 2013 in St Peter's Church

MINUTES

Those Present:

- Committee: John Harrow (Chairman), Rokie Shiffner (Treasurer), Anne Bailey (Secretary)
- Other members: 15

1. Welcome

John opened the meeting by welcoming those attending the second AGM and thanking them for their support. He pointed out that the organisation is still small, but growing, and he is very positive about our cause, although there are big and expensive challenges ahead. In particular he welcomed Peter Barker to the meeting, explaining that the aim of FOSP is to help towards the cost of repair and maintenance of the fabric of the Church and we are fortunate to have the work started by Gill Barker with the refurbishment project to build upon.

He introduced the other committee members and said that he would welcome contributions from the floor during the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Graham Fice, Joan & Trevor Mason, Robin Shiffner, Cheryl Kamstra, John and Hilary Speed, Olive Hodges, Julie Hunkin, Juliet Lambert, Cliff & Anne Bailey, Caroline Bailey, Mary Sloman, Elizabeth & Peter Offord, Annabel McKeon, John Dietz, John and Carole Bretherton.

3. Minutes of Last AGM (26 Apr12)

Matters arising:

- a. Item 4: Financial report not available last time, this has now been produced.
- b. Item 5: John is no longer undertaking recruitment of members but would continue as Chairman if elected. This is still the case.
- c. Item 7: A donation of £600 has been made to the St Peter's Refurbishment Fund.
- d. Item 8: Recruitment effort has been renewed.
- e. Item 10: Publicity material has been displayed in the Library.

The minutes were approved (proposed by Jan Lloyd-Edwards, seconded by Mary Newman) and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

John gave a brief history of how the Friends organisation came into being and some of the work that has been done in the meantime. He intimated that our organisation could be an outlet for people who might not have a strong church connection, but think St Peter's is an integral part of the village and a worthy cause. He observed that it was exactly 2 years ago that he received HRMC's letter confirming that FOSP was officially recognised as a charity and that we could claim Gift Aid of 25% on most

donations. The last 12 months has seen encouraging growth in membership. There are big challenges ahead but we're determined to help to meet them.

5. Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement was circulated and is attached. Rokie explained the figures shown.

To date, administrative expenses such as stationery and postage have been met by members of the committee, but Rokie asked the meeting if approval could be given for funds to be used to meet these in the future, they would be relatively small sums of £20 - 30. This was approved.

She commented that it was not possible to predict exactly how much money would be received over the coming year as much depended on donations. The meeting agreed that a balance should be maintained in case of emergency requirements.

6. Membership Report

Anne gave an overview of the membership situation. This time last year the membership stood at 14 households. As agreed at the last AGM a recruiting drive was held during January and February 2013. 550 letters were distributed around the village and as a result an additional 31 households have joined. The total number is now 45. Of these, 38 have agreed to make regular contributions and 7 have made one-off donations. She thanked all those who have joined in this period, as well as those who helped by distributing the 550 letters.

Rokie asked that members should let the committee know when they become aware of new people moving into the village, and John suggested that all members could help to build numbers by asking people they knew to join us. If we each recruit one new member that will double our numbers.

7. Committee Nominations/Election

John explained that the Constitution allowed for 5 committee members; 3 are currently in post who could be re-elected if they were prepared to continue. All said they were so prepared. Peter Bailey proposed a vote of thanks to the existing committee, and proposed that they should be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Jan Lloyd-Edwards, and carried unanimously.

Two additional members volunteered to stand: Jan Lloyd-Edwards (proposed by Rick Kemp, seconded by Mary Newman) and Rick Kemp (proposed by Jan Lloyd-Edwards, seconded by Sue Tweed). Both were elected unanimously.

John thanked them for standing and welcomed them to the committee.

8. Support Proposals

John explained that the committee would like to hear suggestions from the floor but commented that one obvious but expensive problem that had arisen recently was the stopping of the church clock. As a very visible (and audible) contribution to the life of the village as a whole, this was exactly the sort of project that FOSP would like to support.

Peter Bailey outlined the issues of corrosion in the bell frame and beams supporting the clock weights and explained that it would not be cost effective to repair the clock in isolation. However, one aspect of the project might be to install electric winding of the clock which would save the significant effort required to keep it wound manually. It was not possible to give an estimate of the cost of this aspect of the project yet but it was likely that spending on electric winding would save costs elsewhere. The meeting agreed that FOSP should support the installation of electric winding.

Mary Newman commented that, in the interim, people might get used to the absence of the chimes and strike of the clock and might complain when they are restored. She suggested that an article should be placed in the Stoke Fleming Magazine updating the village on what was planned. **Sec**

Mike Simons commented that, along with others, he missed the clock. He introduced himself as the treasurer of Loam Rangers, who currently have a significant surplus in their funds. At their AGM he is planning to propose that this surplus is distributed between various local causes, one of which would be FOSP. Although this is subject to a vote at the Loam Rangers AGM, he thought that they might be able to make approximately £3,000 available to FOSP. He encouraged those attending the meeting to

attend the Loam Rangers AGM (in the Village Hall at 7:30 on 11 June) if they are already members, and to join if they are not, to vote in support of his proposal. Details of the Loam Rangers AGM will appear in the Stoke Fleming Magazine. Membership forms can be collected at the composting site behind the school.

John recorded a vote of thanks to Mike for his very generous proposal.

John then asked for any other suggestions for support from the floor. Peter Barker mentioned the refurbishment of the organ, but otherwise believes the fabric of the church to be in reasonable condition, although there are some worries about water ingress in the tower.

9. Additional Fundraising Activities

Rokie mentioned the idea discussed last year of evenings in the form of "Desert Island Discs" with local personalities. No candidates have come forward, however, and the meeting agreed that this would not be pursued any further.

Other ideas put forward included a Village Concert (Jan Lloyd-Edwards) and a Harvest Supper (Gwen Teage). The committee will pick up these and any other ideas and move them forward. **Cttee**

John thanked members for their suggestions.

10. Any Other Business

- In response to a question from Di Knight, Anne confirmed that communication will be by e-mail wherever possible.
- Gwen Teage suggested that more publicity was required to raise the profile of FOSP in the village e.g. a stall at the Village Show.
- Rokie suggested that FOSP might like to fund a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival if space can be found. This was agreed.
- On behalf of the worshippers and PCC, Peter Barker thanked FOSP for helping to support the maintenance of this amazing asset in the village.

John thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting with their suggestions. The discussion was exactly what the committee needs the membership to provide.

Anne Bailey
18 May 13

Friends of St. Peter's, Stoke Fleming

Treasurer's Report

Statement of account for year ending 31 March 2013

Year Ended 31 March	2012 -13	2011 - 12
	£	£
Receipts		
Subscriptions	531.00	394.67
Donations	958.05	0.00
Total	<u>1489.05</u>	<u>394.67</u>
Expenditure		
To Refurbishment Fund	1100.00	0.00
Other	143.88	
Total	<u>1243.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Surplus	246.05	394.67
Balance b/f from last year	627.67	233.00
Balance c/f to next year	<u>872.84</u>	<u>627.67</u>

Comments:

1. July 2012: £500.00 donation was made to Friends for the church refurbishment fund, so cheque was paid in and out again; we are hoping to be able to claim Gift Aid.
2. August 2012: £600 paid by Friends to Refurbishment fund following discussion at the AGM in April.
3. March 2013: £143.88 paid to Tozers for envelopes and for photocopying Friends publicity material for village circulation. A donation was made to cover the costs so Friends' funds would not pay for this. Gift Aid will be claimed for the donation.
4. Two years' Gift Aid has been applied for (expected to be in excess of £400).