

Annual General Meeting - Monday 27th March 2023, 8pm
North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green

President - Gary Mabbutt, MBE

All are warmly welcome however only members of the Society can vote

AGENDA

AGM 2023

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 March 2022
2. To deal with Matters Arising from those Minutes
3. To receive the Chairman's Report
4. The presentation of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members
6. Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts
7. Any other business

**To be followed by a talk given by Elizabeth Hamilton, Trustee,
Campaign to Protect Rural England, Hertfordshire**

Minutes of AGM 2022

Welcome.

In the absence of our President, Gary Mabbutt, who is recovering from major surgery, Nigel Matthews, Chairman welcomed all those present including local councillors, Teresa Travell and Paul Zukowskji. Nigel read out a note from Gary saying how sorry he could not be there this evening.

“I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight. I am recovering after having to have major surgery last week. You are in very good hands with Nigel, Carol and the Committee Members and with Jed Griffiths filling you all in on the latest developments of the Local Plan.”

Nigel thanked Gary for his note and sent the Society’s best wishes for a swift recovery from his surgery.

1. **To conclude the adjourned 2021 Annual General Meeting** held on 26 April 2021 by Zoom. (All relevant papers are on the Website) and confirm Minutes of the AGM held on 26 February 2020 and Matters Arising from those Minutes. The adjourned 2021 AGM held on 26 April 2021 was concluded and Minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed and signed with no matters arising. Proposed by Martin Connolly and seconded by Carol McCarthy

2. **Chairman’s Report**

Nigel Matthews began on a sad note to say that our former Vice President and Committee Member, Craig Rees, had sadly died earlier this year. He was a much valued member of our Committee for over ten years and in 2013 moved to Wales. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Nigel continued with his address by welcoming everyone after such a long absence of not being able to hold a physical meeting due to the Pandemic. He advised that the Committee had continued with their work remotely on trying to protect the Green Belt, with the main focus being on the Local Plan as well objecting to some major planning applications. As a Committee the Society have kept up to date on developments on the Local Plan over that period and attended, via Zoom, Public Examination Hearings in support of Jed Griffiths, Planning Consultant, who represented the Society. Nigel advised that the Society have also kept in touch with local MPs, Grant Shapps and Oliver Dowden and local councillors.

There have been three major planning applications over the last two years. Having been refused planning permission for up to 100 dwellings at Roundhouse/Farm, Land Off Bullens Green Lane, by both St Albans City Council and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, an Appeal was lodged and upheld by the Inspector. This was an extremely disappointing result. The decision was based on a loophole where local authorities have not proved a “five year land supply”, the technicality on which planning inspectors have granted appeals on planning applications for development in the Green Belt. This resulted in an application being submitted for 104 dwellings in Upper Bell Lane. This site had previously been included in the Local Plan but subsequently dismissed by the Inspector. (Post meeting note – this application was subsequently withdrawn). An application for 34 dwellings at Little Heath (a Local Plan site) was granted. A planning application in Travellers Lane, Welham Green was submitted by HCC in August 2021 for a Hazardous Waste Transfer Station. The Society submitted an objection but unfortunately this was later granted with conditions. Nigel advised that the NMDGBS maintained its review of planning applications in the Green Belt. They are prepared to lodge an objection where it is felt that an application represents

inappropriate development in the Green Belt for which there are no special circumstances - representations are public documents which can be seen on the Council's website.

Nigel thanked Ish Syed, who joined our Committee last year, for all the work he has done on our Website in updating and making it user friendly as well as emailing our regular newsletters by Mail Chimp.

Nigel thanked the Committee for their commitment and hard work.

Answering questions on his report, Nigel again asked for interested members to consider joining the Committee.

Approval of Chairman's Report. Proposed by Paul Zukowskji and seconded by John Salmon

3. Treasurer's Report

Noreen O'Sullivan our Treasurer resigned earlier in the year and Nigel presented the Financial Statement for the year to 31 December 2021, which was prepared by Carol McCarthy. . He reported that because of the restrictions caused by the Pandemic where the Society could not deliver its normal green newsletter or hold its AGM, income was down this year with a drop in subscriptions and donations. Total membership for the year was 620 (422 plus 198 life members) with donations of £1,628. These are from members paying their subscriptions by direct debit, standing order and FPI payments. Costs were down on last year again due to no Newsletter distribution and reduction in website expenses. Because of the on-going situation with the Local Plan, costs are still accumulating with using the expertise of our Planning Consultant, Jed Griffiths. There is still a healthy amount in reserves of £37,936. All other expenditure is kept to a minimum with the Committee freely donating their time and energy. Nigel read out the Auditor's Report. There were no matters arising. Approval of Accounts. Proposed by Simon Polledri and seconded by Pam Davis.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

The Officers and Committee were proposed by Paul Zukowskji and seconded by Kathy Mabbutt en bloc.

Chairman Nigel Matthews; Secretary Carol McCarthy, Treasurer –vacant ; Committee Members: Claire Taylor (Vice President), Alex Brown, Martin Connolly, Az Khan, Simon Polledri, Ish Syed, Paul Turner and Carol White.

5. Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts

The appointment of John Salmon as an Independent Reviewer of Accounts was proposed by Carol McCarthy and seconded by Nigel Matthews, and approved by the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

Q&A Session with Jed Griffiths, Planning Consultant.

Nigel thanked Jed Griffiths for his update on the Local Plan which was warmly applauded by the members.