

**Annual General Meeting - Monday 18 March 2024, 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 2024**

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 March 2023
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 2023
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 Simon Marsh,  
Planning and Policy Manager of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust**

## Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held at the North Mymms Memorial Hall, Welham Green on Monday 27 March 2023

### **Welcome.**

Gary Mabbutt, President welcomed local councilors, members and residents and thanked them for attending. He also welcomed the speaker, Elizabeth Hamilton, Trustee, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Hertfordshire

He began by thanking the Committee for their efforts and commitment in protecting the interests of the community and of the environment. In particular, their commitment to making “our” voice heard in the consultations and hearings surrounding the Local Plan. Gary mentioned the hopeful prospect of a letter written by Michael Gove to MPs with changes that the Government intended to make to the planning system.

### **1. Minutes of the previous AGM:**

Minutes of the 2022 AGM, proposed by Nigel Matthews and seconded by John Salmon, were agreed and signed with no matters arising.

### **2. Chairman’s Report**

Nigel Matthews began by advising that the Society had had another busy year. He reported that the Local Plan, which had been largely on hold, suddenly took off in late December as the Council moved to consult on what are called Main Modifications to the original draft plan. Although these offered some respite for the Green Belt, the total target for the Borough still exceeded locally generated need. With the assistance of Planning Consultant, Jed Griffiths, this observation and other points in the response to the consultation were submitted. The Inspector’s response is expected sometime after the May local elections. Nigel said there was a ‘light at the end of the tunnel’ when Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Local Communities issued a letter to members of Parliament setting out his proposals for changes to the rules about local targets and protection of the Green Belt. He advised that councillors voting last December noted that these proposals were not yet in force and may not be in place to affect the Local Plan.

Nigel spoke on the ‘rash’ of planning applications from developers seeking to anticipate the plan. He mentioned that the Society had joined with CPRE Herts and a newly formed action group, Brookmans Park Action Group, to oppose a developer seeking planning permission to develop land north of Bradmore Way, a site not recommended by the council in the Local Plan. This went to Appeal and is awaiting the inspector’s decision.

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 Simon Polledri and seconded by Paul Turner.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Carol White Treasurer presented the Financial Statement for the year to 31 December 2022. . She reported that total membership for the year was 1,031 (833 plus 198 life members) with donations of £3,332. Carol advised that these figures were significantly more than last year's because of the freedom following the Pandemic restrictions to distribute Newsletters again. She commented that there was a reduced cost in Local Plan expenditure because of the period of dormancy in the progression of the plan earlier in the year. There is still a healthy amount in reserves of £41,220. 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 Carol McCarthy and seconded by Bob Howe.

### **4. Election of Officers and Committee**

The Officers and Committee were proposed by Trisha Salmon and seconded by Arthur Spencer en bloc:

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

Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts The appointment of John Salmon as an Independent Reviewer of Accounts was proposed by Carol White and seconded by Arthur Spencer, and approved by the meeting.

### **5. Any Other Business**

A talk was given by Elizabeth Hamilton, Trustee, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Hertfordshire.

Gary thanked Elizabeth Hamilton for her interesting and informative talk, which was warmly applauded by the members.