

## Post AGM 2024 Notice – 21 March 2024

NMDGBS held their AGM on Monday 18 March at Welham Green Memorial Hall. The meeting, chaired by our President, Gary Mabbutt MBE, was well attended with over 80 people present. Gary began by thanking all those attending, including local councillors. He complimented the Committee on their efforts throughout the year and reiterated the importance of protecting the Green Belt and the ethos behind its formation in 1935.

Our Chairman, Nigel Matthews presented his report on events that had taken place over the past year. The big event of the year has been the adoption, finally, of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan by the Council. Although not a particularly good outcome, either for the Parish or for the Borough as a whole but from a Green Belt perspective, it could have been a lot worse. Nigel stressed that without local engagement the outcome would have been an even more serious impact on the Green Belt. The chief advantage of the Plan is that it will deter speculative applications for development on sites not included in the Plan.

One major success was the planning Appeal for the site in Bradmore Way. The Inspector upheld the Council's refusal of permission which was a very welcome outcome and emphasised just how important the Green Belt is in this area.

On a lighter note, Nigel reported that we planted a tree in May of last year in memory of Clive Bennett, our lifelong Vice President and Committee Member. The tree is planted in the Platinum Jubilee Garden in the Welham Green Recreation Ground.

Closing his report, Nigel extended thanks to Gary, our President, Jed Griffiths, our professional planning advisor, John Salmon, who moderates our accounts and to all those members who deliver our annual AGM newsletter. Also, he gave thanks to our Committee Members. Special thanks were given to Alex Brown who is stepping down for health reasons. All the other Officers and Committee Members were willing to continue with the addition of two new recruits, Trina Golland and Mark Lambourne.

Carol White, our Treasurer presented the Financial Statement to the 31 December 2023. She reported that subscriptions were slightly down from last year but donations were up. The main expense was for planning advice. All other expenditure is kept to a minimum with the Committee freely donating their time and energy.

### Election of Officers and Committee

The Officers and Committee were proposed and elected:

**Chairman:** Nigel Matthews; **Secretary:** Carol McCarthy; **Treasurer:** Carol White;

**Committee Members:** Claire Taylor (Vice President), Martin Connolly, Trina Golland, Az Khan, Mark Lambourne, Simon Polledri, Ismayeel Syed and Paul Turner

**Appointment of Independent Reviewer of Accounts:** Mr John Salmon

Following Any Other Business, our Speaker, Simon Marsh, Planning and Policy Manager of Herts and Middles Wildlife Trust give a very interesting talk with Projector images on his role within the Trust.

Gary closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the speaker.

Please note all relevant papers are on the website.