

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ASCOT & ENVIRONS

26th May 2022

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7.30pm on 26th May 2022 at Ascot Golf Club, with 52 attendees.

SPAE President Dr Christina Hill Williams welcomed everybody and asked Chairman, Patrick Griffin, to open proceedings, Mr Griffin asked the meeting to confirm the acceptability of the 2021 AGM draft Minutes and raised the subject of Annual (and Lifetime) Fees as a matter arising as £24 and £240 had been approved but considering circumstances, the Executive decided to move halfway to £12 and £120 for the time being.

Chairman's Report

Mr Griffin reported that SPAE was successful in 86% of the planning applications taken to appeal and provided updates on large sites which had already gained approval (Sunningdale Park and Heatherwood). The RBWM Local Plan had been adopted in February. The Bracknell Forest Examination Stage 1 Hearings are taking place in June and adoption is likely in 2023, plus the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan final public pre-submission consultation is planned for Summer 2022.

Mr Griffin referred to the Local Plan allocations in Ascot Centre in relation to a proposal made public by London Square. This suggests almost half the 300 allocated dwellings would be built on less than a quarter of the allocated land. Landowners are required to work together to ensure that sites are not developed in isolation but there appears to be little evidence of this. Mr Griffin said the outline plan fell short of the information requirements of the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan with little recognition of the Prince's Foundation's adopted Vision for Ascot Centre. John Bayliss confirmed that he had organised for the trees on site to have Tree Preservation Orders. SPAE will monitor developments.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Bingham showed a summary of the Financial Activities with history over the last eight years. Outgoings were circa £3,000 per year and accumulated funds were just under £28,000. More revenue from new members would be welcome. Pauline Smith proposed adoption of the accounts and the reappointment of the auditors which was unanimously agreed.

Membership Report

Ewan Miller reported that SPAE has implemented a new system to save time and costs, working with a company called Love Admin. This computerised system means

that new members would need to join via the website, the standard method of communication would be by email and subscriptions would be paid by Direct Debit not Standing Order. The opportunity to make donations in addition to membership fees was raised in a question from the floor and it was confirmed that donations could be made via the website and would be most welcome.

Marketing Report

Emma Litwin explained the new website, showing a screen shot of the title screen and pointing out the new website's features including links to relevant sites. A social media alert about London Square's proposed development, had generated 35 responses to her Facebook post.

Election of President, Officers and Executive Committee

Mr Griffin confirmed that Dr Christina Hill Williams was willing to continue as President and was proposed by John Barnes and seconded by Mary Batten. Then Dr Hill Williams announced the following for election: Patrick Griffin (Chairman), Keith Cameron (General Secretary), Mark Bingham (Treasurer) and Ewan Miller (Membership Secretary), proposed by Barry Weatherill and seconded by Graham White and elected unanimously. Dr Hill Williams announced the following for membership of the Executive Committee: Sarah Fenton, Emma Litwin, Michael Clarke and Rachel Willcock and their election was proposed by David Norman, seconded by Peter Shaw and voted for unanimously.

Levelling-up and the Regeneration Bill

Patrick Griffin provided an insight into the Bill and mentioned four criteria espoused by the first draft. 'Beauty' will include Design Codes (including both qualitative and quantitative elements). The RBWM's townscape assessments are an example. Street Votes on neighbourhood development and Council Tax premiums on second homes are two more features, plus Council powers to instigate auctions for vacant retail properties to bring them back into use.

Conclusion

Dr Hill Williams thanked Mr Griffin and congratulated him on building a team which was providing a high-quality service to the neighbourhood.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.