

**HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
MINUTES FROM THE AGM HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 2003

The AGM commenced at 8.00 p.m, chaired by Mr. David Barnard, Chairman and was the 36th anniversary of the Society.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Mr. Paul Hembury, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Firth, Mrs. B. Nicholson, Mrs. Lindsay Griffin.
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM (10th December, 2002).** These minutes were signed by the Chairman as being a true and accurate record of that meeting.
3. **MATTERS ARISING.** There were no matters arising.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** David Barnard opened his report by thanking everyone who had worked so hard for the benefit of the commons in the past year - not just those on the Committee but also the working parties, organisers of the summer party, the maintenance of the equipment, leading fungi walks and keeping the rubbish down. He explained the Lottery Heritage grant had expired in the summer but we had been allowed an extension to the end of February 2004 to use up the grant and this was being spent on a further chainsaw course and stump grinding on areas on which we have worked. He went on to say that we had achieved a great deal this year maintaining the open common and trying to reduce the bracken. The heather regeneration is a slow job but we have persuaded the Horticultural Society to grow some plants from seeds. We are again grateful to the Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers for their work. Our own tractor has done about 70 hours work with about 20 hours tractor maintenance thanks to Mike Wallis and Windsor Thomas. Our Summer Party was very different this year with a Hog Roast at the School. Although the numbers were down, it was a very successful event and we hope to repeat it another year. The local Heritage Study edited by Lindsay Griffin was published and a sell out. It is now available both on CD-ROM and on the Cholesbury Website. Lindsay is now working on the second part of the Study and is gathering material together about the local houses and families and hopes this will be an ongoing task as more people contribute. A new flora survey has been conducted by Wendy Grey and Roy Maycock - a copy of which was available for viewing. The Chairman concluded by appealing for more help at the working parties and suggesting that people looked at the website.
5. **SECRETARY'S REPORT.** The Secretary reported that we had had four committee meetings. The management of the commons was dealt with elsewhere but she felt she should comment how stunning they were looking. The Litterblitz resulted in even fewer sacks than last year which was down on the previous year. This is because of a valiant band of people who pick up litter all the time. We now have special device available to make this more pleasant. We still have major items dumped on the commons and we are very grateful to Geoff Stacey at Chiltern District Council who comes to our rescue promptly. The feedback on the new format for the Summer Party was positive but we need to know which time people prefer the event to take place 12 noon or 6.00p.m. (We later took a straw poll at the meeting and the latter was preferred.) The Secretary also put in an appeal for more contributions to the local house histories which Lindsay would happily accept in any format. The watery fungi walk was much enjoyed and we were pleased to hear there was to be another shortly. The Secretary concluded by observing how very diverse were the challenges faced by Christine Stott as owner of the Commons. She personally had learned so much during her stint on the committee and wished her successor good luck.
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT** Mike Fletcher reported that our subscription numbers had fallen. He also felt that the subscription which had not been raised for 13 years should be increased. He said

Christine had obtained a further grant from Chiltern District Council of £1750. He offered his congratulations to Lindsay Griffin on the very professional document she had produced. One major expenditure this year had been a new flail mower which cost £2350 and which has been put to good use by the tractor team who have also spent much time on equipment maintenance for which Mike thanked them. He felt the coming year would be financially difficult now that the grant had ceased and proposed that the subscription should be raised to £7.50 per person. This motion was proposed by Sue Fletcher and seconded by Windsor Thomas and was carried. It was also proposed for future use we should amend Rule 3 to remove the actual subscription sum - this was proposed by Clive Carey and seconded by Paddy Thomas and carried unanimously. Mike concluded by thanking the Auditor Adrian Sparkes who is happy to stand again.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.** David Barnard was re-elected as Chairman proposed by Fletcher Nicholson, seconded by Mike Wallis. Amanda Houlihan was re-elected as Vice Chairman proposed by Joan Barnard seconded by Isobel Clark. As Jenny Parsons is standing down as Secretary, Graham Kersting was proposed by Mandy Houlihan and seconded by Joan Walton and duly elected. Mike Fletcher was re-elected, proposed by Christine Stott and seconded by Isobel Clark. There were no further nominations for the Committee and as they had all agreed to stand again, they were re-elected en bloc proposed by Joan Barnard and seconded by Fletcher Nicholson.
8. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.** Adrian Sparkes was appointed auditor - proposed by Windsor Thomas and seconded by Christine Stott.
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Parking at the Village Hall was raised as a planning application for a mesh (Ecoblock or Golpla perhaps) as used at Chartridge Conference Centre overflow car park, and are investigating suppliers and installers. It will be put on the HCCPS agenda for the next committee meeting. There was also a complaint about the parking at the Full Moon. David singled out for special thanks Isobel Clark who has worked tirelessly on the common this year and Amanda Houlihan who had run such a splendid party.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 9.55 and we then moved on to drinks combined with a fascinating talk on the fungi of our commons by Clive Carey.