

## **Friends of St Peters Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 1 May 2021 at 10:00 by Zoom**

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
  - a. Churchyard (see Chairman's report)
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Committee Nominations/Election
7. Projects
8. Fundraising
9. Any Other Business

# Friends of St Peter's Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 November 2020, by Zoom

## MINUTES

### Those Present:

- Committee: Rick Kemp (RK – Acting Chairman, outgoing Treasurer), Tim Hailstone (TH - incoming Treasurer), Anne Bailey (AB – Secretary), Suzie Dodsworth (SD), Kevin Sumner (KS)
- Other members: 11

### 1. Welcome

RK welcomed everyone to the meeting; and explained that he had been asked by Rokie Shiffner (RS) to stand in as Chairman as she was unable to attend. He reminded members that papers had been circulated in advance, and therefore intended to keep the meeting as short as possible.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: RS, Joan & Trevor Mason, Mary & Michael Bell, Hilary Speed, Josie Hainsworth, Rosemary Scadding, Caroline Sigrist.

### 3. Minutes of Last AGM (4 May 2019)

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed: Sue Tweed, Seconded: Kevin Sumner. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated in advance. RK expanded on the following:

- He welcomed the new committee members, Kevin Sumner and Tim Hailstone, and commented that it had been a difficult year, with little activity possible.
- The renovation of the vestry and organ loft windows is now complete and work has now started on the remaining windows in the north wall. RK said that the completion of the windows project would be a major achievement for FOSP, comparable to the work done in 2016 on the tower clock.
- The film night in March 2019 had gone very well, despite slow early ticket sales, but unfortunately no events had been possible since. The village concert planned for April and the visit of the Maesteg Male Voice Choir have been postponed indefinitely, but it is hoped to stage both events at some time in the future.

### 5. Treasurer's report

The Financial Statement was circulated beforehand; it shows a balance at 31 March 2020 of £17,431.47. RK stated that the balance at 31 October 2020 was £20,294. This increase of some £3,000 is due to collection of annual subscriptions and claim of Gift Aid.

RK noted that, whilst the race night took place before 31 Oct 19 not all receipts and payments had been made before closing the account for Year End, so he had included all transactions for this event in the 2019-20 accounts.

RK stated that, in view of the difficulties of carrying out a handover of the books to Tim Hailstone, who has been in France throughout the summer because of Covid restrictions, he was happy to continue to look after the books, prepare the 2020-21 accounts Gift Aid claim, until the next AGM. AB recorded FOSP's thanks.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mary Newman, seconded by Suzie Dodsworth and approved unanimously.

## **6. Trustees Nominations/ Election**

AB explained that the Constitution requires members of the Committee to stand down annually at the AGM, but they can stand for re-election if willing to do so. This had not taken place in May 2020 and the current Trustees had continued to serve. As all were willing to continue until the AGM in 2021 so it was proposed that they should be re-elected en bloc on this occasion. Proposed: Mary Newman, seconded: Diana Knight and approved unanimously.

## **7. Projects**

RK asked Alison Shaw to explain the current situation with regard to work in the church, in particular referencing the recent Quinquennial review.

Alison started by thanking FOSP for their support and interest in the maintenance of the beautiful church in the heart of the village. She explained that the Quinquennial review by the church architect had identified issues with the roof and guttering, and John Dietz (as churchwarden) is investigating the scope of the work required, and obtaining quotes. Until the scale of this project is known it is not possible to progress plans on the re-ordering, kitchen and WC project, although this is still something she would very much like to do. She will remain in touch with FOSP on progress.

Alison concluded by thanking FOSP for funding the work on the windows. which are looking excellent. RK replied by stating how good it was for members to see a project completed.

## **8. Fundraising**

The current plans for Zoom-based talks in the spring were outlined in the papers circulated. More information about these will be promulgated in due course. AB thanked Mary Newman for volunteering to talk about Start Point Lighthouse.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Some comments had been received in advance, many of which had been covered during the meeting. In addition:

- a. Joan Mason stated that, as magazine Editor, she was happy to support FOSP with publicity for events and general information. The meeting expressed their thanks: this could prove very valuable when funds for the next major projects are being sought.
- b. Teri and Gary Larsen offered to give the church gates a brush down and paint in better weather in 2021. Alison was very grateful for this offer.
- c. Mary Newman asked if a working party could be organised to clear the churchyard paths, and if drainage could be considered. The churchyard continues to be a major concern; though actually the responsibility of the PCC it is brought up at every FOSP AGM. Alison undertook to bring it to the attention of the PCC. FOSP have already offered funds towards using the Community Rehabilitation Group to undertake some work, but it has not been possible to contact them. FOSP would also be willing to consider helping towards costs of, say, drainage, subject to scope and quotation.
- d. Rosemary Minshall requested that the invoice for the windows work should be obtained as soon as possible, so that it can be processed and the VAT refund grant be claimed from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. We understand that this Scheme might not be operational after 31 March 2021. Rosemary was advised to ask John Dietz who is responsible for the contract with the supplier. (Post meeting note: FOSP has agreed in the past that contributions to projects should be net of VAT, but if the church was unable to obtain the LPOW grant then FOSP should be approached for further help to meet these costs.)

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled in late April / early May as usual, in person if possible, otherwise by Zoom.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Rokie Shiffner

As our last AGM was only five months ago this report covers only the year from November 2020 – May 2021.

To recap:

At the AGM last November I wrote of the sadness of the enforced cancellation of the 2020 Spring Village Concert and the plans for an Autumn Concert by the Maesteg Male Voice Choir.

However I hope you will be pleased to that we have had a Fruitful Five months since our November AGM:

- We are delighted to be able to report that the renovations and restoration of the fifteen stained glass windows in the church has now been **fully** completed, two years before we had thought it would be financially possible. This project included the restoration of crumbling stone mullions, repairing the stained glass and leadwork, the complete renovation of the Vestry window which had been covered by opaque yellowing Perspex for years and had been discovered to be in need of a complete rebuild, and the removal of all the rusty external grilles. We are very pleased that Friends of St. Peter's were able to contribute something over £20,000, the lion's share of the overall cost of this project, which has made such a major contribution to the look of the church.
- This has been a real Village effort and would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this achievement possible; for example all those who helped with or attended the two 2019 Fund Raisers - (Race Night at the Stoke Lodge Hotel in March and Film Night of 'Grease' in December) - and of course our loyal and generous Members and supporters, John Dietz who liaised with Heritage Glass, and my own thanks to the FOSP Committee who have imagined and put on such fun events.
- Thank you to all our members who joined us for the very effective Zoom AGM in November.
- A meeting has since taken place between Churchwarden John Dietz and Mary Newman after the AGM when she had voiced her concerns about drainage and the state of the paths in the churchyard. It was agreed that the drainage issue was less pressing than had been thought, and some work to the paths has taken place.
- Buoyed by the success of the Zoom AGM, we were encouraged enlist Zoom again in February – for three Power Point talks on aspects of life in the village: Becky Marsh speaking on the Village Shop, Struan Coupar, Chair of the Parish Council, speaking on its funding, remit and scope, and Mary Newman's presentation on Start Point Lighthouse. None of the Speakers had prepared a Power Point talk for Zoom before, and all three talks were very different, and all three talks were very well received. Speaking into a void with no way of gauging the audience atmosphere is extremely difficult so we are more than grateful to Becky, Struan and Mary for taking on such a task, and we were delighted with the response from the viewers; over 80 people subscribed to the series, of which a third completed and returned the survey which was circulated when the talks had finished. All were positive in their comments, the majority requested a repeat series next year, and many of them said we should have asked more for the tickets! The Friends' policy has always tried to keep its event ticket prices down, to be available to as many people as possible; if we plan another series I am sure the price will be carefully discussed by the Committee.

What was unexpectedly special about the talks was that one could hear so many people, as others joined the screen before each talk started, obviously so delighted to see their friends, without masks, and also some old friends who had moved away from the village.

Another unexpected but very welcome outcome from the talks was not only the sum raised (in excess of £600), but also some new members signed up, and also we are very pleased to be able to welcome a new member to the Committee - David Holmes – whose appointment as Secretary I hope members will confirm during this AGM.

I have been running down a list of FOSP Positives, but must now reach the sad task of Farewells. As you will know, to our great sadness Rick Kemp officially resigned as Treasurer last year but has nobly soldiered on for this year as his replacement, Tim Hailstone, was caught in France. We are pleased for Rick that he has now at last been able to hand over to Tim, and while we are delighted to be able to welcome Tim to the task, Rick's energy imagination and humour will be sadly missed.

And now, having kept us up to the mark for the past ten years, in fact ever since the start of Friends, our Secretary Anne Bailey has understandably said she wishes to have a break and stand down from the Committee. Anne has a real gift for all aspects of Admin, and we have been incredibly lucky to have her ever practical and common-sense support over the past decade while we have been establishing ourselves. She will be a very hard act to follow, but we feel very lucky that David Holmes has now come forward to take her place; we are all very much looking forward to working with him.

This has been a very difficult time for so many people in so many ways; as I write this we are beginning to take tentative steps out of Lockdown, like butterflies about to emerge slowly into a newly uncertain world. I really hope we will all be able to stretch our wings and fly off into a brilliant summer, and that Friends of St. Peter's may be able once more to combine its activities of maintaining the church and churchyard and providing amusing entertainments and general enjoyments for those living in Stoke Fleming.

RS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Kemp / Tim Hailstone

### Treasurers Report      Friends of St Peter's      Financial Year 2020 ñ 21

Year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021			2019ñ 20
Receipts	£	£	£
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
Standing Orders	2,825.50		
One off annual cheques or credits	1,008.00		
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,833.50</b>	<b>3,272.00</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>		<b>705.59</b>	<b>691.60</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Easy fundraising	61.33		
Paypal	525.90		
Identified card sales	65.70		
<b>Total</b>		<b>652.93</b>	
<b>Total receipts in this financial year</b>		<b>5,192.02</b>	<b>6,226.56</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Final church window donations	11,214.00		
Zoom pro fee (3 presentations)	28.78		
<b>Total expenditure in this financial year</b>		<b>11,242.78</b>	<b>1,079.25</b>
<b>Total surplus in this financial year</b>		<b>-6,050.76</b>	<b>5,147.31</b>
<b>Bank Balance b/f from last financial year</b>		<b>17,431.47</b>	<b>12,284.16</b>
<b>Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>		<b>11,380.71</b>	<b>17,431.47</b>

Note      £117.97 of petty cash held in addition to main bank account balance.

## **TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS / ELECTIONS**

### **Anne Bailey**

FOSP is run by a committee of Trustees. The current Trustees, elected at the 2020 AGM, are:

Rokie Shiffner	Chairman
Tim Hailstone	Treasurer
Anne Bailey	Secretary
Suzie Dodsworth	
Kevin Sumner	

We are delighted that David Holmes has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee. You are invited to vote to formally elect him.

Our Constitution states that Trustees should step down annually at the AGM, but they can stand for re-election if willing to do so. Anne Bailey has stated that she does not wish to stand for re-election and therefore an election is required for a trustee to hold the position of Secretary. David Holmes has been nominated. Any other volunteers or nominations are welcome: please indicate on the Comments and Voting Form.

We also have vacancies for 3 further Trustees.

*Please register your votes and nominations on the Comments and Voting Form and return it to the Secretary at [fosp@fospstokefleming.com](mailto:fosp@fospstokefleming.com) by 23 April 2021*

## **GENERAL OUTLINE OF PROJECTS:**

**Rokie Shiffner**

It is always easier to fundraise if we have a specific project, but this year we find ourselves in somewhat of a dilemma: the general long-term plan had been that by the time the work on the windows had been finished (projected for 2023), the plans for the next phase for the church (disabled toilet and new kitchen and the removal of some pews at the back of the church to create a much more usable space) would be well developed, if not already started. However, the windows project has finished two years early while for understandable reasons plans for the disabled toilet and kitchen project are currently nowhere near the starting blocks. Then in 2020 we had a Quinquennial Report in which questions were raised about the state of the roof (last renewed in the 1870s) and guttering. At the moment you will probably have seen scaffolding around the church where Pillars are engaged (or may have just finished) patching fallen tiles – which will give us much more information about the condition of the roof which will be helpful to our analysis of future expenditure, but it is likely to be a Serious Sum; just for an example the Church Architect, Julie Boulby gave a guestimate expectation of around £30,000+ for the guttering and barge boards alone.

However, if we do have to replace the roof it will become insulated which would be a great benefit and feed into the church's requirement that we should be doing all we can to fight against climate change. In this respect churchyards are being seen to have a large contribution to make: a churchyard should of course be a place of peace where people have to be able to access graves, but they are now also coming to be seen as some of the few places which, if properly managed, can become miniature wildlife parks, where of insects, birds and bees work together in a balanced ecology. The current thinking is that, though we are in the country with fields around us and most of our dwellings have gardens, nevertheless gardens and fields tend to be very controlled habitats so that we need to encourage more wildness, and churchyards provide ideal large open spaces within villages in which to do this. Flowers do not have to be 'wild flowers' – but bee and insect friendly – to establish a balanced eco-system. Apparently the village of Stoke Fleming is lagging rather behind other villages in the South Hams in this respect; the church is at the beginning stages of research into how to make changes in the churchyard – the Parish Council is also interested in this - and of course it could be a valuable resource for the school. While the Friends are not responsible for the churchyard we do have an interest in it. If anyone would be interested in joining a research group please get in touch.

The removal of some pews at the back of the church was mentioned above, to make a more generally accessible and usable event space which could also have a small 'Climate Change' exhibition to show ways in which we can all individually all join the fight to save our planet, and how the changes to the church and churchyard are contributing towards the national effort to avert Climate Change. As Stoke Fleming and St. Peter's are right on the Coastal Path, calling the church a 'Climate Change Champion' could make it a specific stopping destination on the Path – which we hope would not only help maintain awareness of the need for energy saving and restoring balance to the environment, but could also be beneficial to our shop and pub.

Obviously, these plans will be costly, and no-one knows whether, in the current climate, grants will be available; as with the Tower Project, it is intended that there will be a separate Committee run by the church specifically for grant applications and to oversee the project. Once the costings are to hand the Friends will be able to select a specific section of the works for which they will raise funds as they did with the clock on the Tower Project. It is also worth remembering that FOSP funds were extremely helpful during grant applications to show match funding had already been raised.

It would be really helpful to have your views on all this before our AGM. Daunting but exciting I hope you will feel as I do.

RS

PS. Since writing the above we have heard of the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. This has re-ignited the question of the tower flagpole, currently considered unsafe (though as I write this there is a light wind and the flag flying at half-mast.) Would you like to re-visit the decision not to replace the flagpole? The last estimate we had was for purchase and erection came in at about £4,000. That's a good section of our current capital, though a further estimate is being sought.

*Comments from the membership on these issues are welcome. Please complete the Comments and Voting Form and return it to the Secretary at [fosp@fospstokefleming.com](mailto:fosp@fospstokefleming.com) by 23 April 2021*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Having now read through all this, please will you let Anne know if you wish to raise any items under Any Other Business, by completing the Comments and Voting Form and return it to her at [fosp@fospstokefleming.com](mailto:fosp@fospstokefleming.com), or to the address shown on the Form, by 23 April 2021.