

FRIENDS OF CHICHESTER HARBOUR

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Friends' held on Thursday 15th October 2009 at Chichester Yacht Club, Chichester Marina, Birdham.

1. WELCOME

Martin Rhodes, Chairman of the Friends, opened the meeting and welcomed over 70 members and guests. Apologies were received from 21 members.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 16th October 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not included in the agenda.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report, which was circulated at the meeting. A copy of his report will be placed on the Friends website, www.friendsch.org.

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Richard Evans, submitted the accounts for 2008/09, which had been provided to all members with the agenda for the meeting, and a copy will be placed on the Friends website, www.friendsch.org.

Income during 2008/9 remained healthy, albeit slightly less than for 2007/8. Legacies were substantially lower than the previous year but were almost compensated for by the higher level of subscriptions and donations from the increased number of members. Payments out during the year increased, and this reflected greater financial support by the Friends for activities within the harbour, which the Executive Committee believed members wanted. The variety of activities and the amounts contributed to each were listed in the accounts set out on the reverse of the agenda.

The Treasurer pointed out that although the Friends had a very healthy balance, much of this was held in designated funds, designed to ensure that funding could be provided for known projects or potentially expensive events which might arise in the future and support for which was fundamental to the aims and work of the Friends.

The meeting approved the accounts as submitted.

6. ELECTION OF HONORARY EXAMINER

Members were advised that Mr George Nash was willing to continue as Honorary Examiner. There being no other nominations, this was proposed and agreed.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2009/10

Members were advised that the following officers had served during 2008/09:

Chairman:	Martin Rhodes OBE
Vice Chairman:	Nigel Roper
Treasurer:	John Williams*/Richard Evans
Secretary:	Chris Punnett
Membership Secretary:	Susan Stewart-Fitzroy*/Valerie Evans
Newsletter Secretary:	Ian McIntyre
Members:	Bernard Clarke, Brian Field, Lee Freeston*, Peter Henshaw, David Weston*.

* Resigned during the year

The Chairman thanked Susan Stewart-Fitzroy, Lee Freeston, David Weston and John Williams for their past service to the Friends'.

The Chairman referred to the considerable efforts Richard and Valerie Evans had made to ensure that the accounts and membership records of the Friends' could be readily accessed electronically, for which he was very grateful. This undertaking had been a very considerable task, but would make administration of the charity far easier in the future. He also thanked the other current members of the Executive Committee for their service over the past year.

The meeting was informed that the current members of the Executive Committee were willing to stand for re-election, leaving two vacancies to be filled. Two nominations for these vacancies had been received, namely Mr Ray Cuthbert (to represent Wildfowling interests) and Mr Norman Payne. The Secretary advised that no other nominations had been received, and that as the number of nominees matched the number of posts to be filled it was not therefore necessary to hold a vote.

It was agreed by those present at the AGM that the Executive Committee of the Friends for 2009/10 shall be:

Chairman:	Martin Rhodes OBE
Vice Chairman:	Nigel Roper
Treasurer:	Richard Evans
Secretary:	Chris Punnett
Membership Secretary:	Valerie Evans
Newsletter Secretary:	Ian McIntyre
Members:	Bernard Clarke, Ray Cuthbert, Brian Field, Peter Henshaw, Norman Payne.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member resident in Itchenor drew attention to the proposal by Haines Boatbuilders of Itchenor to construct a further boat storage/workshop building in the village, which he had asked the Friends' Executive Committee to oppose on the grounds that this was inappropriate in the AONB. This prompted another member to point out that such boatyards were part of the lifeblood of the harbour, and he expressed the view that they should not be allowed to disappear.

The formal meeting ended at 8.15pm.

Following the formal meeting members received a report by Mr James Davis on the continuing achievements of Chichester Harbour Trust, and by Lt Col John Davis, the Manager & Harbour Master, on current issues in the harbour.

The Chairman thanked both speakers for their presentations.

There then followed a powerpoint presentation by Mr Jolyon Chesworth on the presence of seals within the Harbour, and the information which had been gathered as a result of electronic tags being affixed to a number of seals, to track their movements.

The Chairman thanked Mr Chesworth for his very interesting and informative presentation.

The evening was closed by the Chairman at 9.30pm