

SAFFRON WALDEN INITIATIVE LIMITED
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number 03340325

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
HELD BY POST AND EMAIL ON 31st OCTOBER 2022

The following Members took part by either post or email:

Beverly Bernhardt, Annette Chapman, Brandon Chapman, Michael Chappell, Valerie Clarke, C.P. Crawshay, Dominic Davey, Chris Dodge, Charlotte Dunham, Ian Dunham, Gail Ellisdon, Patricia Gregory, Patrick Hawke-Smith, Ray Jones, Chris Knight, Gillian Mulley, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, Ronald Rip, Rosemary Roberts, Judith Rowland, Joanne Stone, Tim Stone, Nigel Weaver, John Westnedge, Cindy Whife, Kenneth Wilson

No apologies for absence were received

Jacqui Portway was in the Chair

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31st October 2021

On the proposal of Patrick Hawke-Smith and seconded by Jacqui Portway it was unanimously agreed that: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 31st October 2021 were a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

3. Chair's Report

The elected Directors have been Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Cindy Whife. Cindy Whife has been the Treasurer, David Pearl the Company Secretary and Peter Riding the Membership Secretary. Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that we are a Company with no shares and so can be regarded as a **non-profit making organisation**. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently **179** registered Members. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

The events for **Member only** which took place in the last 12 months were a Tour of P&A Wood, Rolls Royce & Bentley specialists, in Great Dunmow; an evening visit to West Wood Nature Reserve near Thaxted; a visit to the Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton; a visit to Cambridge Central Mosque; and a visit to the Gibson Collection at Saffron Walden Town Library.

Events for the wider community which took place in the last 12 months included:

In November the winners of the '**Imaging Saffron Walden 2021**' photography competition were awarded their cash prizes and framed certificates by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Porch. The competition was organised by the Saffron Walden Camera Club and the Saffron Walden Initiative to involve all ages in celebrating our lovely town and surrounding area with images of the landscape, townscape, environment, street scenes and activities. In November the Initiative took part in the **Remembrance Day** wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial.

The 5th **Christmas Shop & Business Windows Competition** organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy Whife in November which was supported by the Town Council, with Walden Creative making an amazing video. This gave terrific coverage of the town and what's on offer here. The Mayor presented the winning trophy to Frank Riccio Hairdressing.

The **Late Night Christmas Shopping** event was held in early December after a gap of two years because of the pandemic. Patrick Hawke-Smith organised the many charity stalls in King Street which raised the spirits with their festive fun and games, food and drink, and advice and awareness. Jacqui Portway organised the musical entertainment and has been asked by the Town Council to organise the whole event this year.

In December the **Christmas House & Gardens Competition** was a morale booster for the town and Walden Creative's video caught the attention of 5 Live and an interview took place with Jacqui Portway. Town Clerk Lisa Courtney and Mayor Richard Porch attended the prize giving sponsored by Scotsdales Nursery. The Town Council financed the video and Dominic Davey took the photographs.

In May and early June the Initiative organised a **Jubilee** Shop Windows Competition, helped to co-ordinate the **Jubilee** Community Day on the Common and ran a **Jubilee** Fund Raising Stall in support of the Dance in the Square. In June the damaged willow fencing around the **Mini-Maze** at Swan Meadow was replaced with the help of a grant from Uttlesford District Council.

John Ready for the Initiative continues to put together **Welcome Packs** for new residents to the area. These are distributed free through the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

On August Bank Holiday Saturday the Initiative ran its 19th free **Dance in the Square**. The lead band Miss Disco thrilled the crowds with an amazing two sets, supported by Coverman, Brown Paper Bag and Maeve Hannigan.

In September the Initiative ordered a further 20,000 **Town Trail Leaflets** which are given out to visitors to the town at no charge by the Tourist Information Centre. That makes a total of 100,000 free leaflets donated by the Initiative since 2007.

We now have Initiative **T-shirts** for the Board which members can purchase from Tania Tambas who has a market stall on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Looking forward the Initiative will be celebrating the legacy of **William Winstanley**, a local man who saved Xmas in the 17th Century after parliament had cancelled it. William was all about charity and helped everyone. We think that this will raise the profile of the town and so support the local economy over time. So this year we are organising the Winstanley Christmas Shop and Business Windows Competition, the Winstanley Late Night Christmas Shopping and the Winstanley Christmas House & Gardens Competition.

Finally, this has been another testing but rewarding year. However, with an ever supportive board of directors and volunteers, we have achieved a lot for Saffron Walden. Thank you very much for your support, we certainly make a good team. Let's see what we can achieve next.

4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountants' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2022

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Cindy Whife and seconded by Peter Riding it was unanimously resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports thereon be adopted and approved.

5. Election of Directors

The following Members offered themselves as candidates for election as Directors: Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, Anthony Skipper and Lucinda Whife.

On the proposal of Dominic Davey and seconded by Patricia Gregory it was unanimously agreed:

That the appointment of the candidates for election be decided by a single resolution and that Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, Anthony Skipper and Lucinda Whife be elected Directors of the Company to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Appointment of Accountants

On the proposal of Chris Knight and seconded by David Pearl it was unanimously agreed:

That Croucher Needham (Essex) LLP of Market Walk, Saffron Walden be appointed accountants of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

There were no matters arising

The Annual General Meeting closed at 12 midnight