

Minutes of the 4th AGM of the Friends of Long Sutton Church (FOLSC)

Following an invitation addressed to each member of FOLSC in its Winter 2008/09 Newsletter (Issue 7), the 4th AGM was held in the school hall at 7 for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11th February 2009. The meeting was chaired by Tim Walford, chairman of the FOLSC trustees, accompanied by fellow trustees (David Crawshaw, Treasurer; John Bradley, Secretary; Keith Harding, Robert Fry and David Aitken). In total more than 20 members attended the meeting. Presentations and discussion took place as follows:

1. **Chairman's welcome:** Tim Walford welcomed those present-with a special welcome for the Vicar- but indicated that a number of persons had asked to be excused, including trustee Joan Bond who is abroad.

2. **Chairman's report:** The chairman reported that, over the past year, FOLSC funds had increased, expenditure had been low, and all concerned had enjoyed themselves.

More than £4,000 had been added to FOLSC funds in 2008. During the year the PCC had received the quinquennial report from the architect. This showed that the church is in good condition but that there are some small matters that need attention immediately or within the next 18 months. However, it is vital to continue to build up the reserve as there will certainly be major expenditure required over the next 10 years (e.g. work on the tower) for which we will at the very least need to provide considerable matching funds.

A new FOLSC notice board has been made for the church. The chairman thanked all those who had been involved in this project.

Finally, the chairman thanked members for their support, and the trustees and their spouses for their efforts again in 2008 to ensure that FOLSC organised enjoyable events that enabled it to raise funds for the preservation of the church.

3. **Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts:** The consolidated accounts were distributed at the meeting. David Crawshaw indicated that these accounts had been examined by an independent scrutineer and had been signed off by him. In FOLSC's 4th financial year, ending on 31st December 2008, FOLSC income was £6,653 (£7,476)-a decrease in donations and membership subscriptions but an increase in money from events and interest earned-, expenditure was £1,896 (£1,400), and grants of £600 (£615) had been made to the PCC. The year end surplus was therefore £4,157 (£5,461). £23,675 (£18,214) had been brought forward from 2007 (2006). FOLSC assets at end 2008 were therefore £27,832 (£23,675), of which £25,263 was held in the CLA deposit account and £2,569 in the current account (all figures to the nearest £, the figures in brackets are for the previous year). The accounts were adopted on a proposal from Jeremy Chapman, seconded by John Hall.

Membership numbers were steady but greater efforts needed to be made by everyone to bring in new members.

4. **FOLSC Funding-PCC projects:** Michael Thomas outlined the content of the new quinquennial report and explained the procedures within the church hierarchy for undertaking projects. Offers have been solicited for the initial 6 projects (those considered by the architect to be urgent/to be dealt with within 18 months). The expected cost of these initial projects is a little over £2,000. When the PCC has completed the tendering process and received any necessary church authorisations, the PCC will submit the projects to FOLSC in the normal way. After this, the next task for the PCC will be to prioritise the undertaking of the remaining projects for the coming years. Some of these will be large projects which will almost certainly require grant aid. FOLSC reserves will be essential as necessary matching funds.

Two points were raised: the need to profit from the erection of any scaffolding for a given project by using it to carry out any additional work that can be reached; the fall of a "hunky punk" (the PCC will investigate whether any work will be required to ensure that the remainder is in a safe condition).

5. **Election of Trustees and Officers:** The chairman stressed the need to plan the succession and to start the renewal of the management of FOLSC. He indicated that, with the exception of Joan Bond who wishes to resign for perfectly laudable reasons that will soon become apparent, the remaining trustees were however prepared to stand for re-election en bloc at least for the coming period (Tim Walford, John

Bradley, David Crawshaw, Robert Fry, David Aitken and Keith Harding). The floor accepted the procedure of re-election en bloc. Michael Thomas proposed and the Vicar seconded the re-election of these 6 trustees. This was carried unanimously. Two new trustees were proposed for election: the chairman proposed and Janet Walford seconded the election of Geoff Pringle; Tommy Tulk proposed and Peni Harding seconded the election of Amanda Vaux. Both candidate trustees were elected unanimously. The chairman welcomed them to the team of trustees. The chairman then indicated that the current Officers were prepared to stand for re-election en bloc. This was accepted by the floor. The re-appointment of Tim Walford as Chairman, John Bradley as Secretary, and David Crawshaw as Treasurer was proposed by Jeremy Chapman and seconded by John Hall. This was carried unanimously.

6. **2009 events:** Keith Harding outlined the 2009 programme of events:
 - a. a **Spring dinner/dance on 21st March:** tickets (£24 pp) will be on sale from 16th February;
 - b. **Summer concert in the church:** Geoff Pringle has proposed a Somerset-based folk singer who writes his own songs and comments on them. It was suggested that this might be combined with a meal/drinks on the village green (Cf the very first FOLSC event with John Wilson) but this would be very close to the summer party;
 - c. **Top of tower-members only:** this will be repeated on or about 21st June;
 - d. **Summer party:** This will take place this year in the Charity farm barn on 1st August;
 - e. **Autumn talk:** the idea of a talk on Somali pirates was well received;
 - f. **Wells cathedral-members only:** interested members will give their names to Keith Harding. The possibility of a tour of the Bishop's Palace was also raised either before or after the work on the chapel has been completed.

Other suggestions were made: joint FOLSC/school event to involve the parents in FOLSC activities (possible link with FOLSC summer party but 1st August not an ideal date); FOLSC involvement in the monthly charity stall in the church (NB: the purpose of this is to raise money for other causes rather than for LS church but a formula whereby, for example, FOLSC participated and gave out its publicity material might be advantageous; FOLSC Christmas cards (but problems of competition with the shop, difficulty of making a profit given the number of cards that would probably be sold); the possibility of a joint event with "Somerset churches and chapels".

All of the above points will be considered by the Trustees at their next meeting.

7. **Any other business:** nil.

Chairman's closing remarks: The chairman thanked participants for their presence, called on them to give continuing support to FOLSC initiatives, and reminded them of the necessity to use their own contacts in order to increase the membership of FOLSC.

Secretary:.....

Chairman: