

- 1 The Secretary read the Notice of the Meeting.
- 2 The Secretary noted 10 apologies, together with proxy votes from 3 members. 12 Members attended the meeting.
- 3 The Secretary proposed the Trust Chair to Chair the AGM. All agreed and Chris Bow was appointed Chair for the Meeting.
- 4 The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposer: Bryan Davies
Seconder: Miranda Fyfe
Agreed by all in attendance
- 5 The Chair highlighted some points from the Financial report and the Directors' report previously circulated.
 - It was a quieter year compared to last, as many of the changes implemented and worked on during the previous year were now settling in; for example, the website which went live last November. A special thanks to Geoff Hale who ensures that this is kept up to date and relevant. We can now accept new subscriptions and donations via the website which has helped to improve the back office efficiency.
 - Our administrator, Surge Dhanda, who had only joined shortly before the last AGM has now settled into the role and our thanks go to her.
 - The Busway Link - whilst we are not opposed to travel improvements, we believe there is a better and cheaper solution which will not impact adversely on the Green Belt and the views from the Down. The Trust will continue to support the alternative to this scheme although it appreciates there are differing views held by Members.
 - Retirement Village- we have worked with the developers, Rangeford, to build a Strategy Plan for the new country park, Chalk Hill. To be discussed later with the presentation to follow.
 - Our independent examiner, Tim Phillips, resigned for personal reasons (nothing to do with The Trust) and Jayne Merrick, who lives locally, was appointed to fill the casual vacancy.
 - The finances remain in good shape although the surplus compared to last year is down from around £37,000 to £28,000. In part, this is a consequence of the post-pandemic reduction in visitors. Income was higher during that period but Friend subscriptions and car park fees have now returned to a more 'normal' state. Income is down by 13%, however costs are down by 10%.
 - There has been a reduction in the market value of investments; down £47,476 compared to a surplus of £50,227 the previous year. What we gained in one year we lost the next! We maintain a medium to low risk policy with our Investment Manager, Charles Stanley. The Trustees take the long-term view over which we generally expect to see a net rise in value.
 - The overall financial position is considered to be satisfactory. We have £1.4 million in reserves and £146,000 immediate cash liquidity.
 - Subscription income will be closely monitored against a trend of rising costs.
- 6 The Treasurer (Chris Bow) commended that the meeting receive the Financial Statements and Report of Directors for the year ending 31st March 2023.

Proposer: Kathleen Foreman

Seconder: Bryan Davies

No Objections – All in favour – Statements and Report accepted

7. Resolution I to re-elect Sara Sayer as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Jim Foreman
Seconder: Mary Cooper
No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

Resolution II to re-elect Claire Beale as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Miranda Fyfe
Seconder: Bryan Davies
No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

Resolution III to re-elect Christopher Bow as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Kathleen Foreman
Seconder: Bryan Davies
No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

8. RESOLUTION IV: to ratify the appointment of John O'Boyle as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Claire Beale
Seconder: Jim Foreman
No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

9. RESOLUTION V: To confirm the appointment of Jayne Merrick as Independent Examiner

Proposer: Mary Cooper
Seconder: Kathleen Foreman
No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

10. To deal with any other ordinary business of and Annual General Meeting.

- Haverhill Road Closure due to UK Power Networks laying electrical cables – Discussion on the road closure and likely impact for the Trust as visitor numbers were already down sharply. There has been a consequent loss of income and this could be ongoing during the course of the works. It may be that visitors would be put off for a number of months and may not return if they find alternative places to walk. The lack of notice was also discussed and deplored. The Trust will monitor the potential income loss and consider the possibility of a financial claim against UK Power Networks.
- The loss and support of two patrons was noted with thanks and appreciation.
Ian Hay Davison 1931 2022
David Rayner 1928 -2023
- Christopher South stepped down as President at last year's AGM at short notice, which gave the Trustees little chance to properly acknowledge his contribution towards the establishment of the Magog Down. The Trust has prepared a little "Thank You" in the form of a framed picture of Butterflies on the Down (they have been particularly prolific this year). The picture will be forwarded to him with our grateful thanks.
- The Trustees are considering the siting of a permanent tribute to those who helped setup the Down in the early days, such as Christopher South and others. Members will be kept informed of developments.
- Chris Bow was thanked for all his work as both Treasurer and Chair over this last year.

Present: Chris Bow, Kathleen Foreman, James Foreman, Sara Sayer, Lenore Alexander, Bill French, Mary Cooper, Claire Beale, Bryan Davies, Miranda Fyfe, Mary Hill Harris, Carol Davies

The AGM meeting was followed by 3 presentations

1. Proposed new Country Park - Chris Bow

Chris presented and talked through the Master plan for Chalk Hill Down which will have mown paths, a gate on Hinton Way and a gate on Haverhill Road/Drift Rd.

Due to the proposed Busway, 1/3rd of the land will not be released to us until 2026 and this was shown on the plan. Chris was thanked for his informative presentation.

2. Butterflies on the Down - Claire Beale

Claire led a presentation on the Butterflies and the families they belong to that have been seen at the Down. We have now had 28 of 57 British butterflies and two migrants visit the site. Claire was thanked for her informative presentation and also Nick for the wonderful photos.

3. New Tree Trail- Claire Beale

Claire and Nick Beale presented the new tree Trail which is almost complete. This has been trialled already and new leaflets have been produced which were presented to Members at the meeting. There will be QR codes on noticeboards which will link to further information on the website. Claire and Nick were thanked for their presentation and the work on producing the leaflets.