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**SENS AGM**

**Thursday 21 January 2021 at 1900 by Zoom**

1 Present

Isobel Stoddart, Fran Richardson, Dave Plumb, Alistair Kirkbride, Mike Cambray, Daniel Rayson, Sue Walley, Sheila Adam

2 Apologies

Ken Jackson, John Mitchell, Alasdair Muir

3 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM

Alan Lord was present and should be added to the attendees. Here is a brief appreciation of Alan and his contribution to the community:

*Alan Lord had an enquiring mind and was very community minded. He was a staunch supporter of SENS from the beginning.  He knew a lot about plants and was an accomplished gardener. He was repairing dry stone walls in the damson orchard until his last couple of years.*

*He may have been responsible for the planting of the trees along Windermere Road, but he certainly guerilla planted primroses along the riverside path section of “Miles without styles”!  
  
Alan kept the weather record, which required meticulous daily recordings of the weather. He wrote a regular weather summary for the Parish Magazine.  
  
Above all he was a friend and will be sorely missed.*

The meeting approved the minutes as otherwise correct.

There were no matters arising.

4 Co-Chairs’ Report

This was given by Isobel Stoddart, Co-Chair with Fran Richardson.

After the last AGM John Mitchell and Mike Cambray initiated a series of Pop Up meetings to generate new energy and ideas for SENS. A total of 6 Pop Ups were held between October 2019 and February 2020.

The SENS Committee continued to meet during 2020, and the SENS mailing list received a regular e-newsletter.

SENS was successful in being awarded a Lottery grant of £750. This was intended to underwrite a Midsummer Eco Festival, but given the pandemic and with the agreement of the Lottery the funds were diverted to:

* An Active Travel Survey linked to a SENS leaflet which was distributed to Staveley with Ings including Kentmere
* Planters for Jack’s Corner, to be maintained by SENS.

SENS has achieved greater engagement with the Staveley with Ings Parish Council (PC), making our presence known, providing information about the climate emergency and what action the PC might take. The PC has formally acknowledged the importance of the climate emergency, and agreed that they should consider further how this should be reflected in their responsibilities.

The report of the Active Travel Survey was presented to the PC, and circulated in the SENS newsletter. Priorities for action have been agreed with the PC and SENS intends to both lead and support work on this.

SENS has worked with CAfS and the Staveley WI to promote the Cold to Cosy Homes project, providing insulation and advice about switching energy provider. And Diane Hubbard delivered a SENS Webinar on home energy.

The SENS work on hydro energy has been re-energised, with the application to Community Energy Cumbria’s Community Energy Fund for resources to commission an expert assessment of possible options.

Rachel McLennan has worked on behalf of SENS to develop the polytunnel at Plantation Bridge, and she has strengthened the relationship between SENS and The Big Onion which will provide an outlet for surplus produce from the polytunnel.

SENS has developed two leaflets – one on Biodiversity was distributed with the Active Travel survey, and the second (general Climate Change) has been held in reserve.

The annual SENS litter pick was planned but had to be abandoned after lockdown.

And at the end of 2020, SENS is simply celebrating keeping going!

5 Treasurer’s Reports for 2019 and 2020

There were two reports this year, as, due to the pandemic, we cancelled the AGM scheduled for March 2020.

Dave Plumb presented the accounts for 2019 and 2020, both of which had been prepared by Ken Jackson. Copies of the accounts are attached.

Dave explained that at 31 December 2020 SENS held £607.98 in its account. However, this includes funds belonging to the damson orchard and the residual film project funds. The damson orchard funds do not belong to SENS, but we could consider treating the film project funds as generally available. Our main annual expense is web hosting and domain names, £131.50 in 2020.

Dave emphasised that we do need to bring in more funding in 2021; this will be on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

Dave proposed and Mike seconded that the AGM accept the 2020 accounts, and this was agreed.

A vote of thanks was sent to Ken Jackson.

6 Election of Officers

This agenda item was chaired by Dave.

On behalf of SENS he thanked Fran Richardson, who with Isobel was Co-chair, and Alistair Kirkbride, who has stepped down as Secretary.

The following were elected unopposed:

Chair: Isobel Stoddart Proposed by: Sue Whalley Seconded by: Fran Richardson

Treasurer: Ken Jackson Proposed by: Mike Cambray Seconded by: Isobel Stoddart

Secretary: Sheila Adam Proposed by: Mike Cambray Seconded by: Fran Richardson

Committee Members: Mike Cambray

Alistair Kirkpatrick

Alasdair Muir

Dave Plumb

Daniel Rayson

Fran Richardson

Sue Whalley

It was agreed that before the next AGM the Committee should review the SENS constitution and specifically the terms of elected officers.

7 Looking forward

There was a discussion about possible priorities for 2021:

* Taking forward our relationship with the PC, continuing to participate in the development of the Community Plan.
* Building on the fact that many individuals and organisations now have climate change on their agenda.
* Making contact with LDNPA which may be interested in Staveley as a “specimen village” to explore what rural communities can do about the carbon footprint, engaging the PC if this looks promising.
* Working more effectively with planning? How do we promote the green perspective on housing?
* Working to understand who does what re flood management around Staveley – who has an overview of it? We should start by including the work on Reston Scar on our next Committee agenda.
* The Abbey Care Home – is there anything which can be done?
* Improving our communications and specifically our social media presence.
* Developing a series of “case studies” – how are local people and organisations responding to the growing evidence of the climate crisis – inviting people to be interviewed for the SENS newsletter/social media.
* Pushing the hydroelectric stuff.
* Considering how we work with three major programmes:
  + COP 26
  + Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme
  + Local (Cumbria) Transport Plan – now known as CTIP – Alistair will lead on this.
* Building networks with thoughtful people – sharing information about activities, what’s going on elsewhere - prioritising our energy.
* Supporting the polytunnel and The Big Onion.
* Using the second leaflet.
* Taking forward Active Travel including mapping desire lines, encouraging the PC to work with Highways, and supporting the PC work on Travel and Transport.
* Continuing to support efforts to “green” Jack’s Corner.
* We also agreed to return to the Pop Up list at our next Committee meeting.

8 Any other business

None.

Sheila Adam

Secretary

SENS

January 2021