

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022 AT 1800 BY ZOOM

PRESENT

Isobel Stoddart, Dave Plumb, Sheila Adam, John Ashford, Mike Cambray, Barbara Colley, Sarah Goffe, Tim Goffe, Wendi Lethbridge, Rachel McLennan, John Mitchell, Alasdair Muir Daniel Rayson, Fran Richardson, Nicola Rudge, Emily Rowe, Anne Salisbury, Graham Vincent, and Sue Walley

APOLOGY

Alistair Kirkbride

PART A – FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcomes

Isobel Stoddart welcomed everyone to the AGM. She explained that she would be sharing papers on screen through the meeting, and that the agenda and all the papers are also available on the SENS website.

2. Minutes of 2021 AGM and any matters arising

These were agreed subject to any amendments which should be received by 31 January 2022.

3. Safeguarding Policy

As SENS undertakes more projects with volunteers, it seemed wise to develop a Safeguarding Policy. This may also be required for some grant applications. The Policy has been approved by the SENS Committee and is now presented for approval at the AGM.

The Policy was approved, and copies will now be formally provided for all SENS Committee members. Further information is available from either Isobel Stoddart or Sheila Adam, the two points of contact for any safeguarding concerns.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dave Plumb introduced the Accounts for 2021 which had been prepared with the Treasurer, Ken Jackson. Dave expressed his thanks to Ken for his continuing support to SENS.

Dave explained that there were a few relatively minor corrections to be made, and the final version would then be posted on the SENS website.

It was agreed to move the funds for Films into the general funds which means the money can be used for any SENS project. Sue Walley proposed that a small contribution might be made to a video which is planned about the River Kent, and this was agreed.

In summary SENS is holding funds of £1140.43, of which £450.90 is ring fenced for the Damson Orchard. Thus SENS has financial assets of £689.53 at 31 December 2021.

The accounts were adopted with no objections subject to minor corrections to be agreed with Ken Jackson.

5. SENS Constitution

Dave Plumb proposed an amendment to the Constitution:

As currently drafted:

5. Honorary Officers

- a) At the Annual General Meeting hereinafter mentioned, the Group shall elect a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer (hereinafter called 'the Honorary Officers') being persons who are members of the Group.
- b) The Honorary Officers shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after their election but shall be eligible for re-election. All Honorary Officers are subject to re-election at each AGM. provided that no Honorary Officer shall hold office for more than three consecutive years. On the expiration of such period, two further years must elapse before any further Honorary Officer shall be eligible for re-election.
- c) The Honorary Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Committee hereinafter constituted.

Para b) proposed amendment:

- b) The Honorary Officers shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after their election and shall be eligible for re-election. All Honorary Officers are eligible for re-election.

The amendment was agreed with no objections.

6. Elections for 2022/23

The following Officers were elected:

Chair: Isobel Stoddart, proposed by Dave Plumb, seconded by Fran Richardson

Secretary: Sheila Adam, proposed by Dave Plumb, seconded by Mike Cambray

Treasurer: Ken Jackson, proposed by Dave Plumb, seconded by Isobel Stoddart

The following were nominated by Dave Plumb, seconded by Isobel Stoddart, and were elected as Committee members:

Mike Cambray

Alistair Kirkbride

Wendi Lethbridge

Alasdair Muir
Dave Plumb
Daniel Rayson
Fran Richardson
Sue Walley

PART B – REVIEW/DISCUSSION

7. CHAIR’S REPORT AND GENERAL REFELCTIONS ON 2021 AND 2022

Isobel Stoddart summarised SENS projects and activities during 2021 as below. Full details are provided in the slide presentation attached. She began by saying that 2021 had been a strange year, but a positive one for SENS.

- Leading and Influencing:
 - Working with the Cumbria Sustainability Network, Cumbria Transport Group, Staveley with Ings Parish Council through the Community Plan and the Flood and Sewage Task Group
 - Responding to consultations eg the Lake District National Park Partnership Management Plan, Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Planning Applications
- Projects led by SENS
 - Biodiversity Action Plan (within the Community Plan) including proposals for a community orchard, together with the Cumbria Development Education Centre Green Places Officer who has resources to work with young people
 - An active fundraising programme
- Campaign to Clean Up the River Kent
 - Establishing media coverage, a website and a social media presence
 - Working with University of Cumbria
 - Developing a community of those who use the river from Staveley to Kendal
 - Fundraising for Citizen Science water quality testing project
 - Engaging with Environment Agency, United Utilities, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust, and other stakeholders
- Projects SENS has been involved in
 - Great Big Green Week
 - Greening Initiative
 - Cold to Cosy Home project (with Cumbria Action for Sustainability)
 - Feasibility study of hydro-scheme in the Mill Yard
 - Charge my Street EV plug installation in the Mill Yard
 - Jack’s Corner – planters, plants and planting, maintenance, funding noticeboard with litter picking kit
- Communications and Engagement
 - Monthly e-newsletter with case studies
 - Increasing social media presence
 - Engaging with local schools, with the Big Onion, and more widely, with other environmental groups across Cumbria
 - Two leaflets distributed – Staveley Action for Nature and Staveley Climate Aware Household

Isobel then introduced a discussion about SENS priorities for 2022, including three existing commitments which will continue over the next 12 months:

- Campaign to Clean Up the River Kent
- Community Street Audits
- Biodiversity Action Plan including collaboration with the CDEC Green Space Project

John Ashford and Graham Vincent raised the possibility of establishing a micro-generation group. They proposed a focus on a demonstration project for micro-energy. Alasdair Muir reported on the work which he and Alistair Kirkbride have been doing to establish a feasibility study for a hydro-scheme in the Mill Yard.

Sue Walley proposed that SENS should promote local growing projects, perhaps working with the Big Onion.

Wendi highlighted three areas:

- The “shared gardens project” where someone with too much garden to be able to manage and someone who wants to garden come together to ensure that the ground is put to good use.
- The scope to work with Staveley Village Association to bring more PV into Staveley.
- The importance of prioritising sustainable planning in any planning application.

Barbara Colley highlighted the potential for tree planting, and agreed to provide further information.

It was agreed that the SENS Committee would take this discussion into account in developing and promulgating an Action Plan for 2022-24.

The meeting closed at 1910.

Sheila Adam
January 2022