

Digswell Lake Society

AGM Minutes of Friday 1st September 2023

Started 19.30

Attended by 20 members

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Denise Neville

2. **2023 AGM minutes were approved.**

Minutes, agenda, accounts summary and all related documents for AGM were distributed via email to membership and were available online via the DLS web site (AGM tab)

3. **Matters arising from 2022 AGM**

There were no matters arising.

4. **To receive the formal Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2022**

Approval is not required for the accounts but are presented to members.

No questions were received on the accounts

5. **Chairman's Report.**

The Society welcomed Lindsay Bruce Smith as its new Newsletter editor. The costs of distributing the newsletter and papers required for the AGM had been significantly reduced as approximately 75% of its Members had agreed to receive electronic copies.

Management plans for the Lake had not yet been prepared but were expected to be informed by the results of two surveys recently carried out by (i) the HMWT and (ii) Jacobs Engineering. Reports would likely be available in Spring 2024.

A new lock had been installed on the main gate which had improved security without disrupting access to the Lake by Members.

6. **Membership Secretary's Report.**

As reported at last AGM there was +120 members in 2020, this decreased to 60+ for 2021 with currently around 450 members of which 13 were from Welwyn Festival in 2023. New members are encouraged both for the society in general and also to stand on the committee.

Membership fees are to currently stay at £10 per family.

Banking processes have been difficult with the introduction of online banks and the closure of many traditional bank branches. This has resulted in the many standing orders not being processed efficiently or correctly by the banking system. The option to use the Direct Debit system in future years is actively being investigated.

7. **Treasurer's Report.**

A summary of the accounts was provided. The account balance increased from £95k to £130k. This was a result of a further legacy payment received from Iris Oaks and a £2500 payment from Affinity Water in respect of a borehole monitoring station which was constructed onsite.

As reserves now exceed the FSC £85K an additional provider has been sort for the balance.

Major expenses have included works to trees; the felling of a damaged Beech and numerous Ash. Costs for the website both historic and current were settled.

8. **Election of up to seven Directors**

No nominations had been received from the membership so Shirley Dobrin & James Godbold were the only nominations who retire in rotation

They were both re-elected on a show of hands, proposed by Peter Neville & seconded by Shirley Dobrin.

There are still 5 vacancies on the board

9. **Appointment of Reporting accounting**

It was agreed to reappoint the existing reporting accountant (Steve Vine)

10. **Questions suggestions & any other business**

Question from the floor;

A thank was given to all those involved in the work parties for their hard work and dedication

Discussions were had around Himalayan balsam, how it's being managed both on site and along the Mimran valley and by who else has been involved.

Discussions were had around attracting new members, local adverts et.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 20.26