

MINUTES OF THE 6th OHSKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023

HELD AT KENDALL HALL, ST MARY BREDIN,

59 NUNNERY FIELDS CT1 3JN

Attendees: Mike and Susi Brain, Jane Pollok, Alison Culverwell, Greta Ross, Michael Wood, Sarah Whittall, Diane Billam, Denis Linfoot, Peter Whisson, Rena Boothe, Marion Bell, Nigel and Lucy Fletcher-Jones, Daphne Reeve, Teresa Lau, Len Hinksman, Tom Lynch, Madeleine Richardson, Helly Langley, Dick and Hazel Vane-Wright, Lorna Durrani, Deirdre Hawkes, David Kemsley, Sophie Scott, Dave Goddard, Jan Pahl.

7-7.45 pm – Social Gathering with refreshments provided and served by SEA members Susi Brain, Alison Culverwell, Lorna Durrani, Helly Langley, and Hazel Vane-Wright. Many thanks to them.

7.50 pm – **“Old Park and Chequer’s Wood”**

Talk by Jan Pahl

Jan is a member of the “Friends of Old Park and Chequer’s Wood” and she spoke about this SSSI area to the east of the City between Sturry Road and Littlebourne Road which includes Reed Pond. The majority of the land is partly owned by the MOD who are planning to dispose of their interest and partly by Canterbury Golf Club who are making efforts to conserve their section.

Her illustrated talk focused on the history – 600,000 yr old flint arrow heads have been discovered, associated with *Homo heidelbergensis* - and it was King Henry VIII’s deer park. Regarding biodiversity, Turtle Doves breed in Old Park, one of few places in Kent, and the Long tailed blue butterfly, a rare migrant, was seen earlier this year. Threats include trail bikers, and possible development for housing and/or a bypass. The Friends were set up to try to safeguard the park and surrounding areas and Jan encouraged members to join and support their efforts to conserve this wonderful City asset. Contact friendsopcw@gmail.com.

David Kemsley thanked Jan for her fascinating talk and she was presented with a thank-you book token.

At the Q&A Nigel Fletcher-Jones said that the park was very probably an Anglo-Saxon estate (or Vill) and raised the possibility of a Roman Villa on the site being so close to the Richborough-Canterbury road.

8.20 pm AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies

Judy Seymour-Ure, Rob Veltman, Michael Reeve, Cathy Sales, Jeff Derham, David and Gwyn Hartwell, Keith Rishworth, Bert and Margot Leslie, Nick and Monica Eden-Green, John and Marian Heath, Francis Green.

2. Minutes of AGM held 21st October 2022

These were agreed without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Annual Report from the Rotating Chairs

David Kemsley told the members that OHSCA had again operated without either a Chair or Vice Chair for another year and sincerely thanked Committee members for carrying out their individual tasks – Helly (litter), Jane (treasurer), Lorraine (volunteers), Lucy (website and IT), Marion (secretary) and Sophie (membership, trees and green team and newsletter distribution). David is on the ACRA Committee reporting back on wider Planning issues. Sadly, Lorraine is moving back to London and therefore leaving the Committee.

In addition David thanked all the other people without whom OHSCA could not operate: Dick Vane-Wright newsletter editor and projectionist for the evening; Lorna Durrani and her SEA helpers for providing the splendid refreshments; David Orr who goes through local planning applications and prepares the Planning Alert emails; Deirdre Hawkes who helps Sophie with newsletter distribution and all their deliverers; Denis Linfoot who attends and reports back on NHS Patient meetings; Hilary Adams who certifies OHSCA accounts; Marian Heath who is the History Group Archivist.

David explained that offers of help both with the work of the committee and all of the Association's various activities would be greatly welcomed.

The next iteration of the Council's Draft Local Plan would be published shortly for public consultation and it was important that the Association respond constructively with an evidence-based submission.

David went on to warn the membership that, although it might appear that Mountfield Park plans (4000 new homes, businesses, schools etc) have gone very quiet, the developers are carrying ahead with infrastructure investigations and the impact of the development is imminent and very real.

Finally David remembered Michael Steed who recently passed away. He was not just a personal friend but a stalwart of the OHDS, OHSCA and LHG. He will be sadly missed.

5. Annual Report from the Treasurer (copy of Accounts filed with these Minutes)

Jane Pollok presented and ran through the OHSCA Accounts which show a year-end balance of £7,701. She was pleased to announce that, after months of negotiating with NatWest, OHSCA now has online banking. Items which had been purchased during the year were light, portable plastic tables for social events and a microphone system.

6. Approval of certified Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023

The Accounts were certified by Hilary Adams, signed copy filed with these Minutes. A copy will be put on the website. We are very grateful to Hilary and she has been presented with a thank-you gift.

7. Annual Report from Membership Secretary

Sophie Scott said 242 households have paid their subscriptions; 20 have not renewed to date. She reminded everyone that new members must complete the Membership Form in order to comply with GDPR rules and that any direct payments into the OHSCA bank account must have an address as the reference. It is not possible to identify subs, donations etc without an address as reference.

8. Annual Reports from Special Interest Groups

Local History Group - Mike Brain announced the group's new publication Dover Street Revisited on sale at £10 and that Marian Heath and Sophie Scott were working together to create a visual record next year of the past 50 years of OHDS/OHSCA.

Green Team - Sophie thanked Deirdre Hawkes and Dave Goddard for their continuing hard work in maintaining the OHSCA gardens. Spring bulbs will shortly be planted. There has been a request for a donation from Churchill Road who need to replace 8 trees (mainly funded by residents). This will be considered by the Committee. The team has been waiting to hear KCC and CCC's plans for the revamped Longport before committing to planting trees there. There has also been a request for a new seat in the Secret Garden between Raymond Avenue and Ethelbert Road.

Planning – David Kemsley advised that we do not have a Planning expert on the Committee but we are happy to receive copies of members' responses to the City Council on specific planning applications.

SEA – Lorna ran through a busy year of events in 2022-23 (her report is filed with these Minutes) and announced further Local Author Talks on 21st November and 12th December. The 2023 Spring Party, which combined a hot and cold buffet with a film presentation about Canterbury, was a great success, and SEA plan to repeat this type of formula on 15th March 2024. Pub Games and Coffee Mornings continue.

OHC – The group has continued to attend meetings online and report findings in the newsletter.

Newsletter – Dick Vane-Wright thanked Greta Ross, who has now decided to stand down as joint editor, for all her work on the newsletter over many years. Greta was presented with a thank-you gift. Dick noted that production costs have been kept (almost!) within budget. Now sole editor, he appealed for future assistance, and also encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter by writing articles, letters, etc.

9. Recommendation regarding annual subscription

Jane Pollok recommended that the annual subscription for 2023-24 remains unchanged at £5 but it is always subject to review.

10. A Proposal for Revisions to the Constitution.

No revisions were proposed.

11. Nominations for Officers and Committee 2023-24

The nomination papers for 6 applicants are filed with these Minutes.

12. Elections for Committee members 2023-24

The following were unanimously elected en bloc to form the next OHSCA Committee.

Chair –

Vice Chair

Hon Treasurer – Jane Pollok

Hon Secretary – Marion Bell

Membership Secretary – Sophie Scott

Committee Members: Lucy Fletcher-Jones, David Kemsley, Helly Langley

Hilary Adams was nominated as Auditor for 2024.

The Committee will continue to operate a rotating Chair.

13 Any Other Business

There was no AOB

14. End of formal meeting.

David thanked everyone for coming and the SEA group for providing the refreshments.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.