

# The Amersham Pensioners' Association

President: Dr John C Maynard OBE

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## Annual General Meeting 2013

### Held at Beaconsfield Football Club on 10 April 2013

A total of 45 Members attended the meeting including

President	Dr John Maynard
Vice-President Elect	Derek Hilton
Chairman	Brian Harding
Treasurer & Membership	Ken Pragnell
Secretary	Rita Whitten
Link Editor	Denise Hayward
TAPA-West Events Co-Ordinator	Hugh Williams
Webmaster	Terry Verrinder

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting commenced at 11.05 am and Brian welcomed all members and thanked them for attending. Once again our numbers included members who had travelled from Cardiff for the day. Name badges were available for all members who had confirmed their attendance and a buffet lunch was provided for the second year as the previous year's lunch had been such a success.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Linda Barkway, Russell Bayly, Keith Fletcher, Derek Lohmann, Dermot Lyons, Rosemary McNair, Jan Marriott, Stewart Matthewson, Mike & Dorothy Miller, Barbara Saunders, Mike Sherwood, Barrie Whitten

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2012

The Meeting was asked to approve the Minutes of the 2012 AGM which had been made available on the website and circulated to members without access to email with the February 2013 issue of the Amersham Link.

Proposed by: David Page  
Seconded by: Roger Pickett

The e-ballot results were reported as 12 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the 2012 AGM Minutes with a total of 57 votes in favour. No votes against and no abstentions.

#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2012 AGM.

#### 5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report had been made available on the website and circulated to members without access to email with the February 2013 edition of the Amersham Link.

Brian reported that the Association continues to be in good health with our membership numbers remaining at over 300. We have unfortunately lost a few members this year but we have had a few new members join, some of whom had retired a number of years ago. In this respect Brian again requested members to publicise our Association with ex-colleagues, both retired and about to retire and inform them of the events we organise, together with an excellent magazine and website. One concern is that with company changes we are not advised of staff who are eligible to join us.

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Chairman:	Brian Harding	82A Hazlemere Road Penn HP10 8AG	T: 01494 813633	E: brharding@talktalk.net
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Regarding the running of the Association this continues to go well. With Denise's help we have a 'Dropbox' system so that all the administration is held centrally in the 'cloud' which makes life simpler and means that the Committee do not have to keep documents on their own pc's.

The Treasurer's Financial Report, which had previously been made available, shows that the Association is in a good financial position with our reserve increasing by approx. 10%, due mainly to savings in the production of the Amersham Link. Travel costs are also low due to Committee Meetings being held by Skype and electronic communications.

At last year's AGM Brian had announced that the Committee proposed that Derek Hilton be nominated as Vice-President Elect and this year his appointment to the position of Vice President was on the Agenda to be voted on later in the meeting.

Brian then said that the reason he could do such a good job as Chairman was because of the individual efforts that Committee members make and described their duties as follows:

Rita Whitten – Secretary: Rita joined us as Secretary last year and as well as doing the secretarial work she helps Ken Pragnell and Brian Harding with the organisation of events. This year's outings are to Bletchley Park and The Magic Circle. We are very lucky to have Rita. (I made a note to include this comment! – Sec.) Nonetheless, we would like someone to help out with the duties of TAPA-East Events Co-Ordinator. A volunteer could be co-opted onto the Committee and Brian, Ken and Rita would be willing to share their experience. Brian asked for members to come forward saying that a volunteer would find it very interesting. The post is still open.

Denise Hayward – Link Editor: Brian said that he thought members would agree that the Link magazine is really excellent and Denise puts a lot of work into each issue in order to get it ready for publication. We recently published an article on Genealogy but there wasn't a great deal of feedback. If anyone has feedback on this or any other items please let us know.

Ken Pragnell – Treasurer & Membership: Ken has honed the financial and membership procedures to a highly dependable state. When a new member joins he can ensure that a Standing Order is set up which saves time in collecting payments each year and we now only have two or three people who do not have a Standing Order at the moment. He handles all our financial matters and spends a significant amount of time receiving, banking and confirming Event bookings. Ken manages the central TAPA finances and we have to thank him for his efforts.

Hugh Williams – TAPA-West Events Co-Ordinator: One of the founder members of TAPA-West, Hugh looks after their events and works hard to facilitate regional activities. Hugh also looks after the TAPA-West finances as they have an allowance and run their own finances. This means that along with keeping the bank account and local records in order, he has to arrange for the annual examination and sign-off of their accounts.

Terry Verrinder – Webmaster: Terry runs our website and combined with his great interest in photography is the first call for us when any 'improvements' are required to photos to be used in the Link. Terry is also responsible for all the online voting systems for the AGM.

Brian concluded by saying that he was very pleased that TAPA had such a strong Committee.

There were no questions arising from the Chairman's Report and the meeting was asked to approve it for the 2013 AGM.

Proposed: John McCombe  
Seconded: Archie McNair

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The e-ballot results were reported as 12 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the 2012 AGM Minutes with a total of 57 votes in favour. No votes against and no abstentions.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report which had been examined by Clinton Ruddock and Richard Waterfield had been made available on the website and circulated to members without access to email with the February 2013 edition of the Amersham Link.

Ken reported:

- Income: there had been no real change in income.
- Expenditure:
  - had increased for the AGM as we had invited TAPA-West members to attend and also a free buffet was now provided
  - Denise had managed to reduce the cost of publishing the Amersham Link as a result of desktop publishing, therefore cutting down our printing costs
  - travel costs have reduced due to Committee meetings being held by Skype
  - no expenditure had been incurred on computers
  - stationery and postage charges were reduced
  - no real increase in insurance
  - sundries were nil
  - TAPA-West sub-committee allowance had been reduced by 50%
  - Net surplus of £657.98 on running costs
- With regard to TAPA-East Events we attempt to break even
  - There was a total of £17.55 surplus on the year's events
  - Overall surplus for the year was £675.53 which has gone into the Association funds
- Current Assets
  - Our funds at the bank now stand at £6305.72. A large proportion of this amount is made up of the original donation by the company which we have managed to build on each year

Roger Loughney raised the question of whether TAPA would receive any tax advantage by becoming a charity. Brian responded that this had been looked at some time ago. Derek confirmed that it had been considered but that at the time there was no real advantage. Ken will investigate the situation again. (\*see Addendum at the end of this document – Sec.)

Hugh reported on the TAPA-West accounts which had been examined by David Silver and David Ryder.

- Current assets at the bank were £728.57
- The Christmas Reunion had been the largest expenditure
- There was one error on the accounts inasmuch as expenditure had been shown as £39.36 in respect of raffle prizes when in fact a cheque should have been written for £39.96. This has now been corrected and the surplus for the year over expenditure is now £43.72.
- TAPA-West had also tried to break even on the year's events and both Hugh and Denise had purchased stamps at the 'discounted' rate prior to the increase in postal charges. However they have not invoiced for these and only claim postage at the time of posting items. Postage costs have been greatly reduced as more members are now on email and there are now only 15 TAPA-West members who require hard copy information to be posted to them.

Questions and comments were requested on the Treasurer's Report. There were none.

## 7. Adoption of Accounts

Proposed: Alan Parker  
Seconded: Clive Goodall

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The e-ballot results were reported as 12 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the Adoption of Accounts with a total of 57 votes in favour. No votes against and no abstentions.

## 8. Membership Co-Ordinator's Report

Ken reported last year that we had 322 members which had been an error. It was in fact 321. During 2012 we had four new members join the Association but lost three members through death. At the start of this year four members decided not to renew their membership but we have had four new members join us since 1 January 2013. However we have unfortunately lost two more members through death this year. Our net membership now stands at 320.

## 9. Appointment of Examiners for 2013

### TAPA

Richard Waterfield and Clinton Ruddock had agreed to stand again as Examiners.

Proposed: Audrey Abbott

Seconded: Derek Lovett

The e-ballot results were reported as 12 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the Appointment of TAPA Examiners with a total of 57 votes in favour. No votes against and no abstentions.

### TAPAWEST

David Silver and David Ryder had agreed to stand again as Examiners.

Proposed: Liz Williams

Seconded: Roger Loughney

The e-ballot results were reported as 11 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the Appointment of TAPAWEST Examiners with a total of 56 votes in favour. No votes against and 1 abstention.

## 10. Election of Officers

### Re-election:

- 1. Webmaster  
Terry Verrinder stood for re-election as Webmaster

Proposed: David Silver

Seconded: Dennis Fox

The e-ballot results were reported as 12 in favour. There were no postal ballots received. The meeting approved the appointment with a total of 57 votes in favour. No votes against and no abstentions.

## 11. Appointment of Derek Hilton as Vice-President

Brian announced that the Committee would like to honour Derek for his commitment to the Association over the past years and for the help and advice he continues to give. Because of all his efforts we would like him to be our Vice-President. Following Peter Brand's suggestion of a Pensioners' Association, Derek is the person who brought TAPA together and without him there would be no Association.

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Proposed: Archie McNair  
Seconded: Richard Waterfield

The meeting approved the Appointment unanimously.

Derek addressed the meeting saying that he was both humbled and honoured to be appreciated in this manner and that for the first time in 14 years he had been able to sit on the floor of the meeting and look up at the Committee. Something that he quite liked! One thought that crossed his mind was that it was now a completely new Committee to that which he, John and other members had started and that he would also like to take a minute to remember Stuart who did so much and was such a great associate. So much has changed and when one stands down as Derek had done a few years ago, you hope that everything will continue. You can never be certain because you know what happens when things change and the company has completely changed. Derek said he had sat in the meeting with pride in this Committee thinking how well they have done and how they had exceeded previous achievements. He then asked members to join him in showing their appreciation. After the applause Terry took a photograph of Brian congratulating Derek on his appointment.

## 12. Motions

No motions had been received.

## 13. Any Other Business (Previously Notified)

None notified.

## 14. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the 2014 AGM has been booked and the meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at the same venue.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am. Brian thanked everyone for coming and introduced our Guest Speaker, Barbara Owen. This was a last minute change from our previously notified speaker – a magician - from The Magic Circle, which TAPA-East would be visiting in October 2013, due to sudden illness. We were very grateful to Barbara for stepping in at short notice with her talk 'No Time on Your Hands' – a lively presentation on her experiences as a domestic science and textiles teacher, complete with anecdotes on pupils she had taught and sayings from her own mother and grandmother which had stayed with her all her life. Advice such as keeping a hat by the front door and either saying you were 'just going out' or 'just coming in' depending upon who arrived and how tidy the house was! Another piece of advice was not to worry about dusting – 'just take your specs off!' Members showed their appreciation and a buffet lunch was then enjoyed by most attendees, where colleagues could sit and spend some time together before departing.

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Signed and approved as an accurate record by Brian Harding – Chairman of the 2013 AGM

Date: .....

Addendum: Item No. 6 – Treasurer's Report.

This matter has been investigated and our understanding is that even if TAPA were a charity, we would not be able to claim back tax against member subscriptions, because the subscriptions are used to benefit the members themselves. Tax would only be reclaimable where the subscriptions were being used to benefit a third party.

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