

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust held at the Octagon,
Borough Road, Godalming at 8:00pm on Wednesday September 3rd 2014.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Received from Valerie Anderson, Clare Windsor.

2. APPROVAL of MINUTES of the 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Copy attached.

4. ADOPTION of the ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013/2014:

The Chairman called for comments on the Annual Report. There were none.
Proposed by James Anderson and carried unanimously.

**5. ADOPTION of STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS for the period 1
APRIL 2013 to 31 MARCH 2014:**

The Chairman called for questions on the Statement of Receipts and Payments.
There were none.
Proposed by Tony Gordon Smith and carried unanimously.

6. ELECTION of MEMBERS of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

All the existing members of the Executive Committee except for Roger Edwards expressed their willingness to be re-elected. The Executive Committee members were re-elected unanimously.

7. A.O.B:

- a) Christopher Robinson, the President of The Godalming Trust, gave a vote of thanks to Angus, for all his hard work as Chairman and also to the rest of the Committee as it had obviously been a busy year. Christopher felt that the Waverley Plan had created a great deal of work for the committee. He also remarked that Godalming seems to be doing better than some other places. The Chairman pointed out that so far the plan is rather light on facts and that he felt that it will take some time to come to a considered view.
- b) Cameron Searle asked about membership numbers. The Chairman said that it stands at about 400, and has been at around that number for several years.
- c) John Thorpe asked for a vote of thanks for John Young and all his hard work over the years.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman's remarks – 2014 AGM

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust. I am very much looking forward to the talk by Michael Edwards, so I will try to be as brief as possible.

Roger Edwards has decided to step down from our committee. I would like to thank him for fourteen years of invaluable service to us. Each of the members of our committee has a particular job to do. None simply turns up to meetings, eats the biscuits and goes home and Roger has been responsible for much of the administration of Heritage Open Days. He organises the stewards and sets up the exhibitions that we hold in the Pepperpot. He is the liaison officer between the Godalming Trust and the Museum and also represents The Godalming Trust on the steering committee for the Burys field . Perhaps more than anyone else on the committee he has been keen to preserve Godalming as unchanged as possible. We will miss his advice and hard work.

Roger's departure means that we now have at least two vacancies on the committee. Another vacancy is for someone to bring our communications further into the twenty-first century. Our current favoured, almost only, means of communication with the public is through the local paper, whether by commenting on news items, putting letters in the letters column or enclosing our Heritage Open Days programmes in the paper. But year by year the circulation of the Surrey Advertiser has been dropping. People under the age of forty communicate through their smart phones. We could really do with someone on our committee who understands Twitter and the blogosphere; someone who looks at Streetlife and "Love Godalming". If you are that person or you know of someone who is and who would be willing to join the committee that would be most helpful. A third area where we need help is on our planning sub-committee. If you have an interest in architecture or town planning, as most of you must do or you wouldn't be here, then we could do with your help.

In each alternate year The Godalming Trust makes Civic Design awards. This is an award year but, unfortunately, this year there were so few suitable buildings that we decided that we were unable to make awards. Next year it will be the turn of Waverley Borough Council to recognise suitable buildings. We expect to make awards again in 2016.

Finally I have a longish list of thanks to make. As usual, the Godalming Town Council has been most helpful. We may have our reservations about some areas of local and National Government but the small staff of Godalming town Council really puts in the hours to help us and the Town Council's contribution to the cost of the Heritage Open Days programmes makes all the difference to our finances. Stephen Goddard has made six new drawings for this year's Heritage programme, making the document a real work of art and Jeni Goddard has done sterling work organising and communicating with the property owners. I would like to thank all those people who open their houses and other buildings. Without you there would be no Heritage Open Days. Godalming's leading estate agents, Hamptons, have generously sponsored the programme this year. Thank you to them. This church of St Peter and St Paul is very much at the centre of the community and we are grateful to the church and to Canon Mervyn Roberts for their help, especially on Heritage Open Days. Thanks to Godalming Museum and to Alison Pattison and her museum volunteers for distributing the tickets for Heritage Open Days and for opening specially on the Heritage Sunday. If it has been a while since you visited the Museum there is much that is new to see including an excellent section for children.

The last thanks go to our hard working committee and to you, the members of the Godalming Trust for coming along tonight and, by your subscriptions, making it all possible.