

SPA E

President: M W Clegg Esq

Minutes

Vice-Presidents:

Lord Elibank and SG Errington, Esq CBE DL

Website: www.spae.org

MINUTES of 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 24th May 2007 in The Parade Ring Restaurant, Ascot Racecourse at 7:45 p.m.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming approximately 60 Members and Guests, naming the following principal Guests:

Councillor Mr Leo Walters, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, accompanied by Mrs Margot Walters; Mr David Demolder, representing Ascot Racecourse; District Councillors from the Royal Borough and Bracknell Forest; Representatives from Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Winkfield Parishes; Representatives of Member Resident Associations; Members of the Press.

In addition SPAE were delighted to have the Guest Speaker, Mr Edward Dawson, SE Regional Director of CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The Chairman thanked Mr David Demolder, Company Secretary of Ascot Authority, for providing the splendid venue free of charge.

Mr Demolder gave an amusing and interesting address welcoming Members and outlining the progress of the works being undertaken at the racecourse.

The Meeting then proceeded with the Agenda:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The General Secretary read out the list of apologies.

2. MINUTES of 35th AGM:

The adoption of the Minutes of the above Meeting held on 8th June 2006, which had been circulated, was proposed by Mr Jack Tye, seconded by Mrs Pauline Smith and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

None arose.

4. ELECTION of OFFICERS:

The following were proposed by Councillor Christine Gadd, seconded by Mr George Coates and were unanimously elected:

President:	Mr MW Clegg
Vice Presidents:	Lord Elibank
	Mr SG Errington CBE DL
Chairman:	Mr RG Stubblefield
Deputy Chairman and Planning Secretary:	Mr GB Burgess RIBA
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Mrs C Webb
Hon General Secretary:	Mrs Glynis Morse

5. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The following were proposed by Lord Elibank, seconded by Mrs Ann-Marie Clegg and unanimously elected:

Air Cdre GMG Cooper	Dr GS Donovan	Mr G Joyce	Mr S McDougall
Mr TJ McElhaw	Mr PW O'Kill	Mr M Porter	Mr PE Standley
Mr KD Streams	Mr PJ Stubblefield		

6. TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORTS including ADOPTION of ACCOUNTS and APPOINTMENT of REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS:

The Treasurer referred to the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/03/2007 and the Accountant's Report, which had been distributed to all Members. She highlighted the increased income (higher subscriptions and donations) and lower expenditure (due to generosity of committee members) than in 2006. Capital invested was £28,166, including £7,000 in Witan Investment Trust. IT expenditure in 2006 was minimal. Corporation Tax of £153 would be due shortly. The Membership figure of 1260 was up slightly on 2006 but Mrs Webb urged Members to persuade more people to join the Society.

It was proposed by Mrs Rosemary Hughes, seconded by Ms Sylvia McAlister and carried unanimously, that the Accounts be approved and adopted and that the Accountants, Messrs Porter Garland, being willing, be reappointed and the Treasurer be authorised to agree their increased fee.

7. PLANNING SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Planning Secretary reported that most of his time this year had been devoted to higher density developments, particularly flats. Burleigh Road, Winkfield, Fernbank Road and London Road have this year been subject to a ferocious number of applications for blocks of flats. These applications are now summarised in the Planning Observations which appear monthly on SPAE's website (www.spae.org)

From 580 applications in the past year, 70% were for smaller, non-comment applications, but 136 comments and objections had been made by SPAE. Of these, nearly 50% were refused or withdrawn. The co-operation of Members who are neighbours to controversial applications, especially when going to Appeal, is essential – as illustrated at 2 Sunning Avenue and Ashish Nivas, where the Appeal was dismissed on grounds of over-development and out of character and not the SPA (Special Protection Area) as expected.

While the Panel examining the SE Plan has yet to submit its recommendations to Government regarding impact of the Plan's housing targets on the SPA, developers feel the outcome will be to their advantage and can now take forward Appeals in respect of increases in housing density (see St Georges Lane, Beechcroft Close and Shrubbs Hill Lane). SPAE is closely examining changes in National Policy Guide for housing PPS3 which requires greater emphasis on developments to be sustainable through location close to good transport links, shops, schools and local services as well as the need to contribute a cut in carbon emissions by reducing the use of travel by car.

Mr Burgess finished his Report by thanking the Planning Team for their considerable time and effort and all members who keep SPAE in touch with the visual impact that planning applications have on their immediate vicinity.

8. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Mr Michael Clegg commented on the progress of work at Charters Road/Charters School car park, providing 65 spaces. RBWM, supported by SPAE, had taken a rational approach to a proposal to cut into the Green Belt and this should be implemented within 6 months.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Planning Overview: Mr Stubblefield endorsed the President's and Planning Secretary's comments and stated that continued action and vigilance was still necessary despite current lesser development activity with H5 and EU SPA Directive. Most building within the past year was from earlier consents and SPAE would continue to oppose multi-flat overdevelopments.

Greenbelt and Affordable Housing: SPAE is pledged to the preservation of the Green Belt in all but exceptional circumstances: the Charters School car park and conversion of Cowarth Park House into a hotel were such cases. SPAE supports the building of affordable housing in our area, but in appropriate areas, e.g. Bedford Lane garage site adjacent to the Housing Society existing development.

Finance & Membership: With our finances slightly healthier than in 2006 no subscription increases were planned in 2007. Our ambition is that everyone in our area is aware of SPAE and that the young, who are very environmentally conscious, and new arrivals are urged to become members.

Website and Publicity: The website had successfully been launched with links to Ascot Matters and other useful local sites. SPAE currently speaks for over 1,250 members and some 500 further local families through Corporate Memberships. We are encouraging all Residents' Associations in our area to join SPAE.

CPRE: Our Guest Speaker, Mr Edward Dawson, Regional Director of CPRE South East, would be outlining the regional pressures on Ascot and Berkshire in his talk which followed the Meeting.

Tributes: The Chairman paid tribute to all SPAE's officers, Team Leaders and the Committee for their hard work during the year and thanked their wives for providing the snacks for the AGM.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr Gordon Williams proposed and Mrs Sue Douet seconded that SPAE should (a) increase subscriptions and (b) purchase a mic for future Meetings. There was general approval for both suggestions but it was not formally agreed.

In answer to Mrs Pauline Smith's query about 1 for 1 replacement of houses, Peter Standley explained that Planning Officers sometimes gave variety of housing design precedence over our concerns about harm to the character of the area.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and the Chairman introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Edward Dawson. At the conclusion of his interesting and informative talk, which illustrated how the SE Plan and new directives would affect SPAE's locality, the Chairman expressed his thanks to the Speaker. The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.