

MINUTES of 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 21st May 2008 in The Windsor Forest Suite, Ascot Racecourse at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming approximately 70 Members and guests, naming the following principal guests: Councillor Mrs Dorothy Kemp, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Mr Charles Barnett, CEO of Ascot Racecourse, Mr Graham Stallwood, Development Control Officer from the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Members of the Parish Councils and the Press.

In addition, Mr Stubblefield said SPAE were delighted that Mr Charles Barnett would be the Guest Speaker after the Meeting and he thanked him for providing the very impressive Windsor Forest Suite free of charge.

The Meeting then proceeded with the Agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The General Secretary read out the list of apologies received (21 members).

2. MINUTES of 36th AGM

The adoption of the Minutes of the above Meeting held on 24th May 2007, which had been circulated, was proposed by Mrs Judith Stephens, seconded by Mr Neil Stephens and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES: None arose.

4. ELECTION of OFFICERS

The following were proposed by Mrs Pauline Smith, seconded by Mrs Mary Cooper and were unanimously elected:

President:	Mr M W Clegg
Vice Presidents:	Lord Elibank
	Mr S G Errington CBE DL
Chairman:	Mr R G Stubblefield
Deputy Chairman and Planning Secretary:	Mr G B Burgess RIBA
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Mrs C Webb
Hon General Secretary:	Mrs Jacky Scott-Howison

5. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were proposed by Mr Geoff Donovan, seconded by Mrs Judith Stephens and unanimously elected:

Air Cdre G M G Cooper	Dr G S Donovan	Mr G Joyce	Mr S McDougall
Mr T J McElhaw	Mr P W O'Kill	Mr M Porter	Mr P E Standley
Mr K D Streams	Mr P J Stubblefield		

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

On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman referred to the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/03/2008 and the Accountant's Report, which had been distributed to all Members and commented that:

- a) SPAE was now required to pay Corporation Tax (£151)
- b) Printing and stationery showed a saving of approximately £700: due to no longer printing the small booklet of planning applications handled.
- c) The increase in IT expenditure was due to the purchase of necessary software and licences plus the purchase of an advertising banner.
- d) Witan Investment had fallen in value.
- e) The number of members was steady.

Mr Gordon Anderson asked why SPAE held such a large cash sum: the Chairman explained it had been built up by previous prudent Officers and it was necessary to handle planning appeals.

It was proposed by Dr Christina Hill, seconded by Mrs Judith Stephens 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 much time had been devoted to considering higher density applications. The summary of all planning observations can now be seen on our website, www.spae.org. In brief, over the year SPAE commented on 153 out of a total of 610 applications in our area and of these 42% were refused or withdrawn. Considerable time was also spent on Appeals. SPAE hoped the recent legislation on SPAs (Special Protection Areas) and SANGs (Suitable Accessible Natural Green Spaces) would help us secure more dismissals of future appeals. This will be tested over Woodberry Down, Pucksfield and Summerwood, Ashish Nivas, Rosewood, Rustlings and Meadow Court (all apartment developments) as well as our increasing concern about 1 for 1 replacements of inappropriate scale, especially on small plots.

The Society strongly opposes the proposed 'Tesco' development in Sunninghill and will continue to contest it on grounds of its affect on the street scene, vehicle parking and access and its affect on the viability of other local traders.

The Society has noticed an increase in the number of deviations by developers from the planning consents they have been granted. He urged members to notify SPAE as soon as possible of any such variations which they noticed.

Mr Burgess then thanked SPAE members for keeping the team in touch with the visual impact that planning applications had on their immediate vicinity and their cooperation at Appeals.

8. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr Michael Clegg declined to remark this year.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Planning Overview: Mr Stubblefield encouraged members who objected to planning applications to attend Appeals. He announced that the Dorchester Hotel Group is to redevelop Cowarth Park House and gardens as a hotel and restaurant, spending around £50 million.

Cotch Community Hall: Under the auspices of Mr Ronnie Wilkie, Racecourse Operations Director, this has been set up for the 14-16 year-olds of Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale by the Ascot Authority using Section 106 racecourse development money.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead: Mr Graham Stallwood had provided the latest local planning news:- that the parking in Charters Road would be improved by September by re-doing the lines in Devenish Road and at the other end of Charters Road. The car park being built was due for completion by September. RBWM were planning a townscape report for each area and SPAE will be asked to comment.

Conservation: SPAE will be proposing areas for conservation, especially the centre of Sunninghill village. They will also propose preservation of some Victorian houses and their fine gardens for the long term interests of the area.

Finance & Membership: These have held up well thanks to Keith Streams and his publicity. The Society is just about managing out of income.

Website and Publicity: Mr Stubblefield thanked Ian Valentine for all his work in putting items on to the website, which was proving useful to members. He also urged more members to operate via email. The new banner was currently at Sunningdale recreational ground and he hoped it would encourage more membership.

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. He thanked the retiring General Secretary, Glynis Morse, for her effort and presented her with a splendid plant.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and the Chairman introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Charles Barnett, who gave an interesting and informative talk about Ascot Racecourse, Present and Future. After Mr Barnett answered questions the Chairman expressed his thanks to the Speaker. The procedure closed at 9.20 p.m.