Ide Hill Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall 16th July 2025 at 7.45pm.

The Chairman, Paul Meredith, welcomed 18 Members.

1. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Sue Green, Simon Winn and Chris and Fiona Worthy.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM,** 17th April 2024, were circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as correct. On matters arising, you recall that we objected to a temporary change of use for Chapmans Wood for a nursery, Forest Kindergarten, on the grounds of disturbance to neighbours and riders using the bridleway; also, that the use of this woodland for most of the year being inappropriate without cover or toilets and with inadequate parking, particularly in muddy conditions. Permission was denied by SDC but that decision has been appealed, and a new submission has been lodged to which we have, in the last few days, again objected. You will note that for the AGM and the subsequent discussion, which I led on Ide Hill before the motor car, attendance was just 18, including several non-residents of Ide Hill. I hope that the new team will have more success in getting younger attendance.
3. **Chairman's report:** The light **programme in** 2024 reflected this limited attendance at both talks and visits, though those that did proceed were well received. In July, Maggie Palmer organised a walking tour of Brasted, including a visit to their heritage centre, which was well reported in the Bugle. In October, the Brasted Society followed this up with a talk on Brasted Place. We also combined with the Gardening Society to host a talk by the celebrity Tom Hart-Dyke on his adventures and world garden at Lullingstone, which was very well attended. The only significant planning event in the year was the application in August for a significant infill development at Hazards in Camberwell Lane to extend this longstanding Airbnb property. We opposed this, as did several adjacent neighbours, but without any support from the Parish Council during the holiday season.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Paul Meredith presented the draft accounts, which will hopefully be signed off by Tony King when he returns from following the Lions rugby in Australia. Total assets of £2658 including a reasonable supply of books at cost, provide a comfortable working balance.
5. **Election of Officers:** Henry Gandon, John Leslie, Marion Price and I are all standing down to encourage a new team, which, with your approval, will consist of Neil Arnott and Stephen Palmer as co-Chairmen, and Tony King as Treasurer. Maggie Palmer will continue, as a committee member and new and we urgently need a replacement for Ros Alston as Secretary.
   I think at this stage I should hand over to Neil and Stephen to outline their plans.
6. **Discussion :** Neil and Steven then outlined the main functions of the Society, maintaining the Archive, observing and commenting, where appropriate on local planning issues, organising and facilitating visits, lectures etc on a local basis. The new committee will meet in the Autumn to discuss possibilities going forward.
7. **Open Discussion:** Drinks and canapés were then served, and an open general discussion ensued.