

Dumbleton Conservation Society

Annual General Meeting – 28th May 2023

Committee Members present: Darren Price (DP), Bob Kennedy (BK), David Braham (DB), Pete Stanley (PS), Nick Towe (NT)

Committee Members Apologies

Received from Adam Clarke (AC), Matt Lockley (MT), Annette Judge (AJ), Anne Goodenough (AG)

1. **Welcome to the AGM and Apologies (DP)**

DP welcomed everyone to the first AGM for the society and noted the apologies from committee members.

2. **Report on DCS activities 2022-23 (DP)**

DP summarised activities for our first year and recognised the contributions of members.

We formed the society in March 2022 quickly setting up a website which has grown with new content throughout the year. We have created and circulated two newsletters to the village and DP thanked David Braham for his work on the website and newsletters, and to the contributors, including Adam Clarke, Nick Towe, Anne Goodenough, Pete Stanley. The meeting also recognised the significant contributions of DP himself in creating content and bring all this together

In 2022, the society initially focussed on coordinating responses to the planning application for Golden Hay field. There were a significant number of objections raised and a number of failings in the application were also pointed out. The developer withdrew the planning application before it was considered by the planning officer.

While the society has spent much time discussing Golden Hay field, the Committee and members have recognised in multiple meetings that we are a society with much broader aims and that we must engage with all residents and sections of the village if we are to be successful in our aims.

We have made an application to nominate Golden Hay field as an Asset of Community Value and this is ongoing. We have discussed alternative uses for the field and continue to discuss this and welcome ideas from the community.

Also we launched a calendar photo competition and have received many entries. We look forward to seeing how this develops. Posters have been placed in the fields around Dumbleton and we have used the village WhatsApp group to reach out to more villagers.

Members carried out an ecological survey in gardens adjacent to Golden Hay field. This was led by Professor Anne Goodenough who has written a report on the survey to be published on our website.

We had a very successful bat walk, led by Professor Anne Goodenough with a much larger attendance than we expected. 5 species of bat were identified on that evening alone while walking by the Cricket Club and Dumbleton Hall. The walk culminated in drinks at the Village Hall, thanks to support from Jim Harmsworth Cowles, Chair of the Village Hall committee.

Through Anne's contacts at the University of Gloucestershire we have also been able to kick off a bat survey around the environs of Golden Hay field and look forward to hearing the results in July this year.

We have tracked new planning applications throughout and considered if these meet the aims of the society (To ensure that any developments are sensitive to the village, its needs and setting), and have been pleased to see that they do meet these aims.

We are planning further events that will bring the work of the society to the attention of the villagers and further our aims, including to promote greater understanding of the history of the village.

The meeting unanimously thanked DP and PS for all their administration and support of the Society since its inception.

3. Report & Update on Society Finances (BK)

BK advised that we have now established a bank account with Lloyds Bank (not Barclays that had been previously mentioned in the minutes of the last committee meeting). Holding a bank account is a pre-requisite for any grant applications that we will look to make in 2023/24. The account holds £35 which was transferred to the account by PS who had been holding cash from voluntary submissions needed to cover the overheads of the society.

BK confirmed this is an online bank account only with no cheque payment or card payment facilities. As such the transactions in and out of the account are all electronic and provide an excellent audit trail of payments.

4. Election of Committee Members (DP)

DP confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Chair. NT proposed, and BK seconded Darren's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. DP was duly elected Chair of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

PS confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Secretary and also Membership secretary. DP proposed, and BK seconded Pete's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. PS was duly elected Secretary of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

NT proposed, and BK seconded Pete's candidacy for Membership Secretary. No other candidates were proposed. PS was duly elected Membership Secretary of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

PS confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Treasurer, having very recently taken on the role. PS proposed, and NT seconded Bob's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. BK was duly elected Treasurer of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

The meeting then addressed the positions of up to four Committee Members with no portfolio. PS advised the meeting that Annette Judge (AJ) and Anne Goodenough (AG) had informed him by email prior to the meeting to confirm they are happy to continue working on the Committee and to stand for one of these roles. However Adam Clarke (AC) has confirmed that he is standing down and we have not heard from Matt Lockley (MT) who is on holiday. PS proposed that we treat MT as withdrawing from the committee at this point and review with Matt in the future. The meeting agreed this.

Nick Towe (NT) and David Braham (DB) verbally confirmed that they are happy to continue working on the Committee and to stand for one of these roles.

There were no other proposals to stand for these roles and the meeting agreed to duly elect Nick Towe (NT), David Braham (DB), Annette Judge (AJ) and Anne Goodenough (AG) as Committee members.

5. Changes to Constitution (PS)

PS quickly explained the changes to the Constitution that had been circulated to all members 1 week before the meeting. The changes cover extension of membership to non-residents who have a close affinity to Dumbleton Parish and the introduction of Membership fees.

There was a general discussion on the constitution and the meeting unanimously approved the new constitution.

PS asked members to note that the new membership fees are due from the 1st June and are £5 per quarter, or £20 per year. BK provided details of the bank account to those present. Note: After the meeting PS circulated confirmation of the fees and payment details to all members by email.

6. AGM Closure

DP thanked everyone for attending the AGM and reiterated that it had been an eventful and successful first year for the society and we look forward to more events and participation in 2023/24.

DP closed the meeting noting that the next AGM is scheduled for 31st March 2024, and asked everyone to look at the DCS website for the schedule of meetings and events.