

SAFFRON WALDEN INITIATIVE LIMITED
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number 03340325

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
HELD BY POST AND EMAIL ON 31st OCTOBER 2024**

The following Members took part by either post or email:

Allan Bourne, Glennis Bourne, Michael Chappell, David Corke, Elaine Corke, C. P. Crawshay, Dominic Davey, Malcolm Domb, Charlotte Dunham, Ian Dunham, Margaret Garland, Paul Garland, Patrick Hawke-Smith, Jackie Jones, Philip Jones, Ray Jones, Chris Knight, Jane Knight, Suzanne Lambley, Niall Martin, Nina Martin, Ralph Meloy, Jacquie Meredith, Pamela Mugliston, Inger O'Meara, Kevin O'Meara, Jacqui Portway, David Pearl, Gillian Pearl, John Ready, Peter Riding, Rosemary Roberts, Judith Rowland, Sally Sandys-Renton, Donna Sharp, Richard Southgate, Sophie Southgate, Joanne Stone, Tim Stone, Job Tissot, Margaret Tissot, Clive Walker, Caroline Westnedge, John Westnedge, Lucinda Whife, Carol Wilkinson, Tim Wood, Geoff Woollerson, Yvonne Woollerson

Jacqui Portway was in the Chair

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2023

On the proposal of Patrick Hawke-Smith and seconded by Jacqui Portway it was agreed:

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 8th November 2023 were a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

3. Chair's Report

The Directors have been Paul Fairhurst, Chris Knight, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, Anthony Skipper and Cindy Whife. Cindy Whife has been the Treasurer with Peter Riding the Company Secretary and Membership Secretary.

Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that we are a Company with no shares and so can be regarded as a **non-profit making organisation**. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently **167** registered Members.

The events for **Member only** which took place in the last 12 months were: 20 Year Anniversary Celebration talk and social in the King's Arms; a visit to Uttlesford Foodbank; a tour the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences in Cambridge; a tour of Saffron Walden Golf Club; a visit to Great Thurlow Hall Open Gardens combined with a visit to the Curwen Print Study Centre Fine Art Printmaking Studios & Gallery; a talk and tour of the Saffron Walden Almshouses.

For the wider community the Initiative has continued to celebrate the legacy of **William Winstanley**, a local man who saved Xmas in the 17th Century after parliament had cancelled it. William was all about charity and helped everyone. So in the past 12 months we organised the Winstanley Christmas Shop and Business Windows Competition, the Winstanley Late Night Christmas Shopping and the Winstanley Christmas House & Gardens Competition. We think that these will have helped to raise the profile of the town and so support the local economy over time.

The 6th **Winstanley Christmas Shop & Business Windows Competition** was organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy Whife in November. The winner was Cole's of King Street with Frank Riccio Hairdressing in Market Row taking second place and Snow Walker in the High Street third.

The 20th **Winstanley Christmas Late Night Shopping** event held in early December, organised by Jacqui Portway and Peter Riding and assisted by Andrew Green, was a success. Stalls looked very festive and musicians and the cast of Cinderella entertained from 4pm to 8.30pm. Father Christmas and his Elf gifted 150 lucky children. The event raised £1,474 for the Fairycroft House Young Carers Holiday Fund. This year the Initiative organised a **'Write a Song for Christmas' competition** and the Mayor, Heather Asker, presented Elliott Porter with the winner's framed certificate. His winning entry 'Christmas In My Heart' was then performed for everyone to enjoy. All the entrants to the 2023 'Write a

Song for Christmas' competition are being invited to perform at a Christmas Songs Concert to be held on Sunday 8th December this year at Fairycroft House.

The Initiative held the 3rd **Winstanley Christmas House and Gardens Competition** in December. The many light displays around Saffron Walden were outstanding and the winners were presented with tickets for the Cinderella pantomime at Saffron Hall, who kindly sponsored the event.

On August Bank Holiday Saturday 2024 the Initiative ran a successful 21st free **Dance in the Square** organised by Jacqui Portway supported by Tim Atkinson from Fairycroft House, Andrew Green and a record number of Initiative member volunteers. The event featured the Essex band The Rolling Clones supported by singer Marc Salmon and was only made possible thanks to the support of Terry Frostick from the Town Council and the Market Traders as well as the sponsors: Bentens, Contamac, Frank Riccio Hairdressing, Identity Creative, InXpress, Mart's Arts Photography, Paxtons, Saffron Building Society, Saffron Walden Town Council, Uttlesford District Council, Walden Capital and WeCare Angels.

The Initiative, working with Uttlesford District Council, has made sure that the **Mini-Maze** at Swan Meadow has been regularly weeded and tidied up. The Initiative has continued to supply the Tourist Information Centre with free **Town Trail Leaflets** which are handed out to visitors to the town. Around 100,000 free leaflets have been donated by the Initiative since 2007.

Thank you very much for the support of the Directors and Members. Let's see what we can achieve next.

Jacqui Portway supported by Peter Riding

4. Financial Statements and Directors' and Accountants' Reports for the year ended 31st March 2024

The meeting received and considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports on those Statements.

On the proposal of Lucinda Whife and seconded by Peter Riding it was resolved:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 and the Directors' and Accountants' reports thereon be adopted and approved.

5. Election of Directors

The following Members offered themselves as candidates for election as Directors:

Paul Fairhurst, Chris Knight, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding, Richard Southgate.

On the proposal of Lucinda Whife and seconded by Dominic Davey it was agreed:

That the appointment of the candidates for election be decided by a single resolution and that Paul Fairhurst, Chris Knight, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Richard Southgate be elected Directors of the Company to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Appointment of Accountants

On the proposal of Chris Knight and seconded by Peter Riding it was agreed:

That MRT Accountants Limited of Market Walk, Saffron Walden be appointed accountants of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

There were no matters arising

The Annual General Meeting closed at 12 midnight