

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held in the Council Chamber, Beaconsfield Town Hall, Thursday 26 March 2009**

Association Business started at 8.00 pm with 28 members and guests present.

1. APOLOGIES

Geoff Grover.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2008

These were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Nico Sacchetti, reported that, there being no elections, the Association as such had had a quiet year though Independent Councillors remained busy on the community's behalf.

Nico then summarised some of the issues of concern to the Independents and to the community – parking in the town and the problem of anti-social behaviour in particular. In the latter context, he was pleased to note that the Town Council was about to install a CCTV camera in Holtspur at the west end of the shops. He was relieved that the opening of the Motorway Service Station had not had as deleterious effect as had been feared and that the developers had performed a creditable job. He also noted that the police were hoping to provide a Police Community Support Officer for the Service Station, but this had not yet been implemented.

Before finishing, he drew attention to our revamped web-site and encouraged members to visit it and contribute their thoughts.

Finally, he stressed the importance of more residents joining the Association and members, women especially, being prepared to offer themselves for election.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Henry Wilson presented the Accounts for the previous year, which were available to those present and had been registered with the Electoral Commission. The cash balance in December 2008 was £1179.56, slightly more than that of the previous year because of decreased expenses despite an unfortunate fall in membership. Expenses were reduced because there was no newsletter produced and distributed for the whole town in 2008, only one for the South Ward as part of the by-election campaign. The most recent newsletter will be included in the 2009 accounts. The major expenses associated with the development of our website were now complete, although there will continue to be modest maintenance costs. Accordingly, Henry felt we were in a satisfactory financial state although he was concerned

with the falling membership. Finally, he expressed his thanks to George Foden for examining the accounts, which were approved by the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following Officers were duly proposed, seconded and elected.

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| i. President | Shirley Scrivener |
| ii. Chairman | Nico Sacchetti |
| iii. Hon. Secretary | Laurence Smaje |
| iv. Hon. Treasurer | Henry Wilson |

All Independent Councillors are members of the Committee (*ex officio*). Currently these are Frank Armstrong and Henry Wilson in the South Ward, and Ken Brown, Les Davies, Geoff Grover, Nico Sacchetti and Deborah Sanders in the West Ward. There are up to seven places available for members of the Association to be elected to the Committee and Michael Harrison, Joy Legg, John Meredith and Stanley Simpson were duly proposed, seconded and elected.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the formal proceedings finished at 8.25 pm.

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After the formal business meeting Wing Commander Martin Exley, Commanding Officer of the Defence School of Languages, gave a presentation on the work of the School and its future assisted by his Second in Command, Major Michelle Claridge. The School began as a private residence in the 12th century and was in private hands until being leased by the War Office in 1942 as an interrogation centre for prisoners considered to have high intelligence value. Thereafter, its role changed several times, though mainly in education, particularly in language education from 1972 onwards, and since 1995 it has focussed exclusively on language education.

Some 13 languages are taught at the School at different levels according to the need of the student, from relatively simple 'street level' communication to locals, up to the sophistication required of diplomats. Another 25 languages are outsourced and courses last from a few days to 18 months. Along with technical instruction in a language, cultural awareness was emphasised as a crucial element in communication between the military and the local population.

Martin Exley then spoke briefly about the School's future and said that a detailed review was currently in progress to determine this, the outcome of which should be known by April 2010.

Wing Commander Exley and Major Claridge then kindly answered questions from a fascinated audience all of whom found the presentation very informative and most enjoyable. It was particularly generous of Wing Commander Exley to give his talk in view of the fact that he had only taken up his position a month ago and both he and Major Claridge were warmly thanked for their presentation.