

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> PLACE AGM, held at 11.30am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in the Hotel de Ville, Ripley, near Harrogate.**

**1. Present:** Peter Addyman, Michael Archer, Jackie Ashcroft, Megan Ashcroft, Margaret Atherden, Adrian Bailey, Margaret Bastow, Linda Blenkinship, John Broadbent, Denise Carter, Anne Curtis, Ian Dormor, Chris Ford, Sue Ford, Betty Frampton, Theresa Gittins, Catherine Hepburn, Thomas Hepburn, Barbara Hickman (Chair), Marie-Anne Hintze, Brian James, Michael Hopkinson, Doreen Leach, Denny Mallows, Richard Mallows, John Mothersill, Vivien Mothersill, John Newbould, Terry O'Connor, David Rhodes, Anne Richards, Sonia Rose, George Sheeran, Beryl Turner, David Turner, Veronica Wallace, and six guests.

**Apologies for absence:** Norma Butlin, Robin Butlin, Brian Elsey, Dina Everard, Glenn Gorner, Jean Hall, Derek Jeary, Jill Magee, David Maughan Brown, Josephine McChrystal, Joy Parry, Nicky Rivers, Nan Sykes, Sylvia Voisk, Esme Walton, Steve Watson.

**2. Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Wombledon on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008:** accepted as a true record. Proposed by Terry O'Connor, seconded by Veronica Wallace. Agreed *nem con*.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:** none.

**4. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2008:** Margaret Atherden (Company Secretary and Chief Executive) presented the annual report. By December 2008 there were 185 Friends of PLACE, an increase from 164 in 2007. The Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group had been welcomed as a new partner organisation during the year. Two conferences had been held. The turnout for the spring conference in Leeds had been disappointing, despite an excellent programme, but the autumn conference in Ampleforth had been over-subscribed. The annual joint lecture with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and the Royal Geographical Society had been given by Ted Green on the subject of ancient trees. Two short courses were run. The first, held in late winter, had attracted only a small number of people but the joint one with *Ars Ludendi* was very well attended. Fieldtrips had followed both courses. Two other fieldtrips had also been organised, both proving very popular.

Several PLACE members had taken part in the monitoring of roadside verges on the North York Moors, which was an on-going project. The re-survey of land-use change in the York green belt was completed and would be written up for publication as part of the proceedings of the 2009 spring conference. Small grants had been given for people involved in both of these projects. The ecological survey of Wharram Percy had been finished during 2008 and a report had been submitted in spring 2009. Three new publications had been produced during the year. All the objectives for 2008 had been met. Winter short courses would be scheduled for weekday afternoons next year, in an attempt to improve attendance. The Board of Trustees had resolved to reduce the cost of conferences and short courses for 2009, in view of the credit crunch. A new publicity leaflet was produced in 2008 but more volunteers were sought to assist with the publicity for events.

**5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2008:** Michael Hopkinson (Treasurer) presented the annual accounts. He drew attention to the fact that the total income was broadly similar to that in 2007 but the planned increase in expenditure meant that the year end balance was lower. Some of this was the result of the increase in the number of publications produced, some the result of higher costs of postage and some due to the purchase of a new printer/photocopier. Income from gift aid made a significant contribution and eligible members who had not yet done so were urged to sign a gift aid form. The financial reserve for 2009 had been increased to £3000 by the Board.

**6. Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts:** Adoption of the annual report was proposed by George Sheeran, seconded by Margaret Bastow and carried *nem con*. Adoption of the annual accounts was proposed by Richard Mallows, seconded by John Broadbent and carried *nem con*.

**7. Election of trustees. Under the Articles of Association of PLACE, one third of the trustees must retire each year but they may, if they wish, stand for re-election. The following trustees retire by rotation:**

- Peter Addyman
- George Sheeran

**The following trustee also steps down:**

- Margaret Atherden

**The following trustee offers himself for re-election:**

- George Sheeran, proposed by Margaret Atherden and seconded by Peter Addyman

**The following people have been nominated to serve as trustees:**

- Jacqueline Ashcroft, proposed by Michael Hopkinson and seconded by Megan Ashcroft
- Veronica Wallace, proposed by Barbara Hickman and seconded by Peter Addyman.

All three were accepted by the meeting *nem con*. The Chairman, Barbara Hickman, thanked Peter Addyman for his many years of service on the Board. He was now a Fellow of PLACE and would continue to attend meetings of the Advisory Committee. Margaret Atherden would continue in her roles as Company Secretary and Chief Executive and would attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity.

**8. Appointment of accountant for 2009:** The re-appointment of Sue Campagna as Accountant was proposed by Michael Hopkinson, seconded by Margaret Atherden and carried *nem con*. Thanks were expressed to Sue for her hard work in preparing the accounts, which she undertook voluntarily.

**9. Programme of PLACE events for 2009-10:** Barbara Hickman outlined the programme for the remainder of 2009, drawing attention to the planned short course on Six Yorkshire Monasteries in the summer, the several fieldtrips and the conference in Grassington in the autumn. The spring conference in 2010 would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> March on the subject of Yorkshire Folk Heroes and Legends. An autumn conference was being planned on the theme of Getting Around in Yorkshire. The 2010 AGM venue was already fixed but the Board would welcome suggestions for future venues.

**10. Any other business:** Margaret Atherden drew attention to two forthcoming events at which PLACE would be represented: a conference in Sheffield in May and the 'Dalbyology' event in Dalby Forest in June. Volunteers were sought to help man the stand. She also pointed out that York St John University was the registered address of PLACE but the PLACE Office was a virtual rather than a physical one.

**11. Date and venue of next AGM:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Kiplin Hall, near Richmond.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

M. A. Atherden (Company Secretary).