

**MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY HELD ON 10th JULY 2010 AT 2.30 PM**

Present: His Grace the Duke of Rutland Patron  
Mr Christopher Pluck Chairman  
Major Michael Isherwood Vice-Chairman  
Mr Ian Munro Treasurer  
Dr Jill Hurley Secretary  
Council Members: Ms Margaret Kerlogue Mrs Lynne Rapson,  
Mrs Audrey Sherren, Dr Sally Turner  
The Rt. Revd Dom Giles Hill OSB Abbot  
The Revd John Draper Oblates' Representative  
and 12 Ordinary Members.

The Abbot started the meeting with prayer.

1. Apologies: Her Grace the Duchess of Rutland Vice-Patron  
1 Council Member, and 25 Ordinary Members
  2. Minutes: The Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting, previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.
  3. Matters arising: None.
  4. Trustees' Report and accounts: The Treasurer spoke to the previously circulated accounts, explaining that we are a distributing charity, and our aim is to give the Community more than 90% of our recurring income each year, about £20,000. In the current year our reserves will be less, as income from investments is down, and we are currently giving £25,000 for necessary repairs, some of which will be drawn from reserves. Fund-raising will again be vital.  
Adoption of these was proposed by Mr Chris Pluck, seconded by Major Isherwood. and accepted by the meeting.
  5. Chairman's Report had previously been circulated. He added that it had been a good year for fund-raising, and thanked everyone who had participated. The planned Quiz Night in April had been cancelled as insufficient tickets had been sold. This was a learning process, to discover what our supporters would like, and other options would be tried in future.
  6. Abbot's Report: In addition to his letter, previously circulated, the Abbot thanked the Friends for their much needed financial support, currently for refurbished bathrooms where a wall had rotted away, and a new boiler for the Bakery. With such a large house running expenses were high, heating (electricity and gas) costing £34,000 per year, which the Community managed to fund from income. They are not permitted to have large reserves, so emergency repairs caused major financial difficulties. Last winter the Abbey had been cut off for about 2 weeks in the snow, with a reduction in income from guests. They had been able to reduce the heating, and use the wood-burning stove, supplied by the Friends last year, with much benefit.
  7. Election of Officers: All Officers had agreed to stand again, and had been duly proposed and seconded, so were confirmed for a further year.
  8. Council Members: All Members had agreed to stand again, and were duly proposed and seconded, so with no other names submitted, they were confirmed unchanged.  
The Secretary encouraged Members to consider standing next year as fresh ideas, and skills were always needed.
  9. Independent Examiner: The Treasurer explained that small charities did not need a full audit, but we are very fortunate in Mrs Jackson, who provides a very professional examination and is most generous with her time. Mr Colin Kinloch proposed and Mrs Lynne Rapson seconded the re-appointment of Mrs S J Jackson as Independent Examiner. This was agreed unanimously.
  10. Forthcoming events: The Chairman drew attention to the further events this year,  
*Col. Patrick Daniell's Open Garden* at Itchen Abbas on Sunday 29th & Monday 30th August,  
*The Evening of Entertainment* on 25th September, by members of the Community and friends.  
*8th Annual Abbey Lecture* on Friday 8th October, to be given by Dom Anselm, which is bound to be very popular.
- The Building Fund-Raising Committee are holding a Concert on Friday 22nd October. Lynn Judge told us that this is a musical soiree with a musically 'illustrated' talk on Chopin followed by other light classical pieces performed by "Barbara Woods and Friends". Wine and canapés will be served in the interval. Tickets £15.00.
- 12 Any other Business: None

The meeting closed with prayer.