

**Minutes of the Hadstock Society 2024 AGM
held in the Village Hall
on Wednesday 4th December at 7.15pm**

Committee Members Present: Richard Dolby, Chair; Patricia Croxton-Smith; Derek Bushell; Peter Wiles; Maggie Hartley, Secretary

Others Present: Peter Jarritt, Moire Jarritt, John Lockton, Sarah Lockton, Lynn Nuttall, Keith Nuttall, Jeremy Pearson, Brendan Burchell, Mel Abbiss, Susan Wiles, Sue Walker

Guest Speaker: Tony Morton, Essex Wildlife Trust.

Apologies: Ian and Jane Jennings; Gill Butterworth, Treasurer.

1. Meeting Arrangements:

RD welcomed everyone to the 52nd AGM of the Hadstock Society and outlined the meeting arrangements. Following the AGM 7.15pm - 7.45pm there would be a short break and following this, at 8pm, a talk by Tony Morton from Essex Wildlife Trust entitled *Ancient Woodlands in Uttlesford*.

2. Approval of minutes from AGM 2023 (previously circulated to members)

The minutes were approved with no further questions.

3. Matters arising from previous AGM.

Plans to update the memorial and gravestone records, available in the Church and online, to be carried out in the coming year. (RA)

4. Committee Report for 2023/2024

RD presented the Committee report (previously circulated to members). Progress was reported for each of the 3 Aims of the Hadstock Society. The report outlined future plans for 2024/2025. These include.....

- Growth and improvement of the online Community Archive,
- Continued work for the Battlefields Trust Assandun project,
- Continued support for the Sustainable Hadstock Initiative,
- Completion of a new illustrated Landscape History publication on Parish geology, watersheds and soils.

5. Treasurer's report (circulated prior to meeting)

RD presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of GB. He thanked members for their support, subscriptions and donations. There were no questions arising.

RD expressed the Committee's thanks to Tim Boyden for his support in approving and signing off the Finance Report.

6. Election of officers 2024/2025

Richard Dolby Chair
Maggie Hartley Secretary
Gill Butterworth Treasurer
Patricia Croxton - Smith
Derek Bushell
Peter Wiles

The membership voted en bloc to approve the above-mentioned officers.

7. There were no further questions to the committee.

8. There were no further items under AOB to discuss.

RD concluded the AGM by thanking the members for their generous support and mentioned that the committee is seeking to recruit a new member and if anyone were interested to get in contact.

Following the talk by Tony Morton on '*Ancient Woodlands in Uttlesford*' the following questions/discussion points were raised:-

- 1) Bee orchids - need wild animals digging to turn over the soil. Fungi feed the orchids
- 2) Charcoal burning in Ancient Woodlands - This would have been the hazel/maple underwood not able to be used in construction
- 3) Oxslips - more common in the past than now due to the increase in the population of Muntjac deer. Darwin declared them to be a separate species known in Old English as 'Paigels'
- 4) Lime trees and Limestone – the origin of the word 'lime' is believed to be different between the two. Lime tree is an alternative name for the American Linden tree.
- 5) Ancient Woodland near Elmdon - both Muntjac and Fallow deer have altered our woodlands due to huge increase in numbers

Cllr John Lockton thanked Tony Morton for his fascinating talk and gave details of upcoming events regarding the Sustainability Project.

The meeting closed at 9pm.