

VGS 2023 AGM – minutes



Tuesday 14 November 2023 @ Dissenters Hall, Sidmouth

Attendance: Ian Gregory [VGS chair]. Roger Till [VGS treasurer], Jeremy Woodward [VGS secretary], Mary Walden-Till [VGS webmaster]

Cllr Ian Barlow, Cllr Stephen Blakeway, Tracey Cann, Teresa Cooper, Richard Eley, Katie Frost [Friends of Glen Goyle], Phil Hibberd, Phil Lee [FOGG], Amanda O'Carroll, Tim O'Carroll, Roy Russell [Sidmouth Cycling Campaign], Steve Santry, Ian Simpson, Sandra Snee [FOGG], Glenis Walding, Cllr Kevin Walker, Jenny Ware, John Williams, Roger White [SCC]

Apologies: Cllr Chris Lockyear, Cllr Sophie Richards

The chair welcomed attendees to the VGS 2023 AGM.

REPORTS

The chair focussed on how well the 2023 [Champions Awards](#) went.

The treasurer presented the [financial report](#), drawing attention to the fact that the VGS will actually break even in terms of income/expenditure.

The secretary gave an overview of social media, including the VGS [FB](#) and [X](#) pages; plus an introduction to the [River Sid](#) and [SolarPunk](#) website initiatives.

The webmaster highlighted that all the daughter groups of the VGS are covered by, including the VGS constitution and insurance; and that the VGS has set up, maintains and hosts several websites for other groups, including [CAPS](#), [Fair Trade](#) and [Twinning Circle](#).

Katie Frost presented the [Friends of Glen Goyle](#) annual report, which can be seen [here](#).

Roy Russell presented the [Sidmouth Cycling Campaign](#) annual report, available [here](#).

Mary Walden-Till gave an update on the [Beach Management Plan](#), as VGS representative.

ELECTING OFFICERS

Chair: Ian Gregory: proposed by Jeremy Woodward, seconded by Mary Walden-Till: carried unanimously by attendees

Treasurer: Roger Till: prop by Ian Gregory; sec by Ian Barlow: carried unanimously

Secretary: Jeremy Woodward: prop by Ian Barlow; sec by Phil Lee: carried unanimously

Webmaster: Mary Walden-Till: prop by Ian Gregory; sec by Katie Frost: carried unanimously

LAUNCH OF THE CHERISHING SIDMOUTH CEMETERIES PROJECT

Jeremy Woodward gave a presentation, focussing on the history & background from [2020](#), including the initial proposals for implementing the plan and the proposal for a supporters' group; before considering current ideas on developing a management plan from [oct/nov](#) and looking to bring together visions with [photos](#) and the new [website](#).

In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that many of the photos of wild flowers are from spring, whilst the current view of the Sidmouth Cemetery is much more overgrown. It was made clear that the success of a group would require considerable dedication, from volunteers and a steering group, and by working closely with the council, over several years. However, it was appreciated that the moment had arrived when a move should be made to set up a group; subsequently ten attendees signed up to take the project forward.

Jeremy Woodward, VGS secretary, November 2023