



Dear Members

19 April 2018

I hope we will have the pleasure of your company at the forthcoming AGM and Annual Lunch. I would like to apologise, on my own behalf and that of the Executive Committee, for not informing you in our recent newsletter that I will be stepping down as your chairman at the Annual General Meeting taking place in Rye Town Hall on 27 April at 11.15am. It was an oversight not to tell you about this; I am afraid that *anno domini* and restricted vision means it is time for the chairmanship to pass to another.

I can report that there will be an election for the post of Chairman. Two nominations have been received and a short manifesto from each candidate is attached.

The two candidates are:

David Bookless	Current Secretary of the Rye Conservation Society
Anthony Kimber	Vice Chairman, Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

In accordance with our constitution, the election will be by a show of hands of all paid-up members at the AGM. The Executive Committee has asked Nicky Frith, our outgoing legal consultant, and John Pope, one of our Vice-Presidents, to act as tellers and both will vote. In order to be entitled to vote, members whose subscription is due will be able to pay in cash at the door. If members have neighbours and friends who wish to join, they must complete a membership form, which can be downloaded from the website, and deliver it with the annual subscription, cash only, to the Membership Secretary Andy Stuart at 3 West Street Rye before the AGM. No proxy votes will be permitted. Please be advised that, as it will be necessary to check the membership of all those attending, early arrival is recommended.

In order to allow enough time for the election, the Executive Committee has agreed to revise the running order of the AGM, so the election of officers will take place directly after the Chairman and Treasurer's reports. The reports from other officers are printed in the Annual Report and, depending on the time remaining after the elections, the new chairman can decide on whether any additional statements are necessary or if there is time to take any questions from the floor.

Each candidate will be asked to address the AGM for four minutes and then answer any questions from the floor. The Executive Committee has asked each candidate to address the following issues so that members are fully informed of each candidate's position.

- What does the candidate see as the role of the Society, now and in the future?
- How would the candidate change the Society?
- Has the candidate made himself aware of the role and responsibilities of the post?
- Does the candidate feel that he has a conflict of interest arising from other posts he may hold?

It is my intention to act as Chairman until a new chairman is elected. However, as I am finding it increasingly difficult to read notes, I may ask Kenneth Bird, a Vice-President of the Society, to administer the election on my behalf, subject to confirmation of this by a show of hands at the meeting.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve as your chairman for the last seven years and I wish the Society and its new chairman the very best for the future.

John Griffiths