

**STATHERN COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025, HELD AT THE PLOUGH INN,
STATHERN, ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Attendees:

Sally Fagan (Chair), Amy Collins (Treasurer), David Worth (Secretary), Matt Hall.
Plus, a further 4 members.

1.	Welcome. Sally Fagan, appointed 'Chair' for the meeting welcomed, the members present. Minutes of the previous AGM were agreed and accepted.
2.	Confirmation of Quorum. David Worth confirmed that the meeting was quorate, with 8 members present.
3.	Membership and Financial Report
3.1	As at 31 March 2025 SCBS had a total of 60 members, unchanged from 2024.
3.2	The Annual Accounts were presented to the meeting and accepted. The accounts, submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), were accepted and registered. In the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, we had the following income and expenditure: Balance as at 01 April 2024: £136,125.96 Income: £2,338.71 Expenditure: £136,105.60 Balance as of 31 March 2025 £2,359.07
3.3	As the Red Lion was taken off the market, and consequently we were not in a position to purchase, all members capital investments were returned by August 2024.

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4.	Election of Management Committee Under the rules of the Society members elected to the committee hold the position for 3 years. The current management committee, elected at the 2023 AGM, have all indicated their willingness to remain in position. They are: Bridget Green (Chair), Amy Collins (Treasurer), Sally Fagan, Matt Hall, Peter Jordan, John Forinton, Charla Forinton, Ken Bray, David Worth (Secretary). No new nominations for the committee have been received.
5.	Appointment of Auditors SCBS meets the financial criteria to disapply the requirement to appoint auditors. A resolution to self-audit was presented to the meeting and agreed unanimously.
6.	Red Lion – Project Update Sally delivered a report (Addendum 1) on the group’s efforts and activities this year in pursuit of our goal to save the Red Lion for the local community.
7.	Any Other Business 7.1 A member raised a question – as the Plough is up for lease should SCBS consider any action. This suggestion was taken away for discussion at the next committee meeting. 7.2 A member raised the question of whether SCBS were using the possible expansion of the school into the Red Lion grounds as an argument against the proposed planning application. This was something that had earlier been explored by the committee but found not to be possible.

The meeting closed at 19.52

ADDENDUM 1

RED LION - PROJECT UPDATE/STATUS

At the last AGM we announced that as the Red Lion was not being actively marketed, under the terms of the Share Option Scheme we would be returning all investments to the member shareholders. This was completed by August 2024.

When we are in a position to negotiate a purchase, a new share option scheme will be launched.

There were two changes in personnel this year. A new planning officer, *Alex Coy*, was allocated to the Red Lion application. We wrote to introduce ourselves, outline some history, and offer an invite to meet on-site to discuss our views. The invitation wasn't taken up.

A new MP for Melton was elected, Edward Argar. We wrote to introduce ourselves and invite him to site to discuss our position. After an initial positive response to a meeting, Edward seems to have been overtaken by duties in the House.

We continue to keep our local councillors abreast of our activities and occasionally meet.

After eight years, the fourth iteration of a planning applications was finally, in March this year, brought before the planning committee for a decision. Prior to the meeting we discovered newly submitted reports by the applicant and by the Conservation Officer. We wrote to the council repudiating many points in these reports. Our response was made available to the planning committee before the meeting. The Parish Council and the Save the Red Lion Group both spoke at this meeting. The outcome was the planning committee voted a resounding 8 votes to 1 to refuse the application. Grounds for refusal were twofold. To put it simply:

- the harm inflicted on the mediaeval centre of the village, and
- the ill-thought-out parking arrangements of the new development, and impact on the already congested parking on Red Lion Street.

We understand the applicants will be appealing the planning committee's decision. They have 6 months to raise an appeal.

We meet as a group on a monthly basis with an eye on our next steps, and preparing our response to the expected appeal.