

Channel Islands Occupation Society (Jersey)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th March 2007

At 8.00 pm at the Members room, 7 Pier Road St Helier, Jersey

Present: 41 members

Apologies received from M Dubras, J Germain and A Trigg

1. **The Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting**

The Secretary read the minutes of the 2006 Annual General meeting, and they were adopted on the proposition of R Le Sueur and seconded by M Costard.

2. **Matters arising therefrom:**

Bunkers – Mr Bernal confirmed that most of the bunkers in the Society's care were under the control of Property Holdings and that no changes to our relationship had been proposed to date.

Press Officer – The Committee had co-opted Mr K Shales as Press Officer during the year.

Noirmont/La Corbière – Mr Bernal advised members that a significant upgrade programme for Noirmont was underway, and that further excavations had recently been undertaken at La Corbière. Funding of £35k had been secured from the Tourism Fund and a five year plan had been submitted. As part of this upgrade and support it was expected that there would be more openings of our fortifications (volunteers willing). This was especially important at Noirmont, which was regarded as our "jewel in the crown".

Uniforms – M Ginns asked whether members were wearing (German) uniforms at CIOS events. Mr Bernal replied that those volunteers representing the CIOS at our bunker openings were not wearing uniforms, but that there had been occasions when a display by the re-enactment organisation Insel Soldaten ("IS") had taken place on the La Corbière headland.

M Ginns added that there was still strong feeling amongst older locals and some tourists, and that this was not an activity that the CIOS membership had mandated at the AGM in 2006. In reply Mr Dodkins said that notices were clearly displayed at IS events stating that IS is a separate organisation, and that further events would be undertaken at a number of locations during 2007. He acknowledged that the CIOS membership was not ready to embrace living history in this way at the present time.

Mont Orgueil history event – R Le Sueur reminded members that the "Soldiers through the centuries event" organised by the Jersey Heritage Trust at Gorey Castle had not included the German Occupation at all. Some members were concerned that the Occupation period appeared to be 'erased' from history.

M Ginns added that he sits on the Heritage panel and that it can be a difficult balance to maintain. Tourism look on the Occupation period quite favourably, but Planning and the Jersey Heritage Trust do not. Consequently, a careful approach needs to be adopted by the CIOS with regard to events like this.

Mont Orgueil – A discussion followed on the merits of preserving the German aspects to Mont Orgueil. Over recent years there had been a trend to remove the German parts (eg the roll bombs and the command post) J Mesch argued that whilst a number of Occupation features at the castle could not be preserved as they had deteriorated too far, they could be re-created. It was agreed that M Ginns would liaise and monitor developments at the castle with R Le Sueur and J Mesch.

3. **To approve the Secretary's Annual Report**

The Secretary's Annual Report was considered and adopted upon a proposition by M Ginns and seconded by P Bernal.

4. **To approve the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements**

The Treasurer referred to the financial statements as distributed to the meeting. He explained that subscriptions had increased, although the postage costs were also significantly higher. Sales of publications were lower than 2005, as the previous year had seen the publication of 'Operating Under Occupation'. Admissions were slightly up. A profit had been made on the raffle and the annual dinner was not loss-making.

Referring to the bank balance he confirmed that net assets were £43k. £15k had been

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received from the Tourism Fund and £2,035 had so far been spent at Noirmont.

The Treasurer thanked all the helpers at the bunkers and also the two Auditors, J Germain and N Le Fondré.

M Ginns expressed the thanks of the membership for Mr Letto's continued care of the finances of the CIOS.

The adoption of the financial statements was taken on the proposal of M Costard and seconded by J Pasturel.

5. **To discuss and (and adopt if approved) any changes to Rules and/or Resolutions**

The Secretary confirmed that no proposals had been received.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The nominations as outlined in the notice of meeting, with the addition of K Shales as Press Officer, were considered.

The Secretary explained that the post of Archivist was still vacant and that the Committee would look to co-opt a member to this post, as no one had come forward.

The appointment of officers and Committee members to all posts as outlined was adopted upon a proposal by R Le Sueur and seconded by M Ginns.

7. **Election of Sub-Committees and Chairmen**

The continuation of the Fortifications Sub-Committee with M Costard as Chairman, and the Noirmont Action Group (NAG) with P Bernal as Chairman, were adopted on a proposition by M Ginns seconded by K Shales.

8. **Election of Auditors**

The Treasurer advised that J Germain and N Le Fondré had offered themselves for re-election as auditors, and their re-election was adopted upon a proposition by R Le Sueur and seconded by J Hamon.

9. **Approval of Subscription rates for 2007**

The Secretary advised the meeting that the Committee recommended retaining the subscription rates as follows: Single member £15 p.a., Couple £22.50, Junior (under 16) £11.25, Family £22.50 (plus £6.00 for each child), Overseas (not inc. UK) members EUR30/US\$30/£20.

The membership expressed the view that this was excellent value for money and the rates were adopted upon the proposition of M Costard and seconded by D Letto.

10. **Any other Business**

Roll bombs – R Le Sueur asked where the roll bombs were currently located. Mr Bernal confirmed they were on display at the Noirmont Command Bunker; they had been loaned to the CIOS by Mr Walker, as a guarantee of preservation had been given by the CIOS which he had not been able to obtain from Government preservation bodies.

Shield – Mr Hamon noted the shield for MG Bat 16 (on display) which had recently been donated by Mr Falle from Gorey. This was a very interesting artefact and thanks were recorded to Mr Falle for its acquisition.

Meetings 2007/8 – The President outlined the plans for meetings in 2007/8, especially noting the French trip, and asking members interested in participating to make themselves known.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm


Secretary

15 March 2007