

DERBY PROPERTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Of the Annual General Meeting. Held on Tuesday 22 January 2008 at
7.00pm, The Spot, Osmaston Road, Derby.

PRESENT

Chris Mills	Land Registry
Liz Knott	John M Lewis
Joanne Jones	Moody & Woolley
Michael Sayer	Briggs Sayer
Paul Meffen	Smith Partnership
Mike Garratt	Flint Bishop & Barnett
Terry Moore	Timms
Larissa Meffen	John M Lewis
Ron Day	Pyms
Nicola Guthrie	Moody & Woolley
Helen Brown	Briggs Sayer
John Lord	H Pipes & Co
Natalie Hearne	Land Registry

Action

01.08 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chris briefly discussed the minutes of 2007 AGM
All those in attendance accepted the minutes as accurate.

02.08 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

03.08 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chris Mills (in the absence of the Chairman) welcomed everyone in attendance to the Annual General Meeting and thanked the speaker Kerrie Deakin of De Montfort University and invited her again to present for us.

Chris then read the Chairman's report in David's absence.

"First of all accept my apologies for my absence this evening. I

am confident that Chris will handle matters efficiently and effectively in my absence. Probably better than I would.

First of all my thanks go to the Officers and Committee of the Association for their hard work during the last year and for standing for re-election this year. It is good to see that despite the time restraints from which we all suffer, there are a group of people willing to dedicate their time for the benefit of others.

I would also like to record appreciation for Diane Grice, our outgoing administrator, who did a great job during the time she was with us and to welcome our new administrator Natalie who I am confident will undertake her duties in a thorough and responsible manner. She is certainly evidencing that at this moment in time.

Last year was a particularly interesting year for conveyancing as the various HIPs D-Days came and went and whilst the dust is still settling, I take the view that this new legislation has not changed the dynamics in the market place a great deal and I hope that will continue, although I do not think anybody really has a clear view of where it is all going to go. What I am certain of is that the process of HIPs has done nothing to help the market or improve matters for those engaged in the house buying and selling process. The world still seems to be divided into two categories - quality and poor quality - those who buy business and those who strive to deserve it. For my part I will continue to encourage a "deserve it" mind set. That's what DPLA is all about.

The Committee undertakes to continue to monitor the HIPs situation and to offer support to members as its effect unwinds a little more.

There have been a series of interesting and point giving presentations during the year which I believe are informative and edifying to the membership, and the Committee undertakes to continue to promote events which will be to the advantage of members.

I would encourage members to be supportive of events planned and to assist the Committee by bringing to their attention issues that members want to see considered.

Finally I am grateful for all those members who regularly attend presentations and take an interest in the Association. We have good core memberships who are supportive and interested. However it saddens me that there are a great number of fellow professionals who cannot see the bigger picture and take no part and share no interest in the work of the Association. For the Committee's part we will continue to

publicise events and encourage others to support.”

04.08 SECRETARY’S REPORT

Chris Mills gave the following report:-

“My position during the last year has ostensibly been to ensure compliance by the Association with its CPD requirements. We remain accredited with the Solicitors Regulation Authority, The Council for Licensed Conveyancers and The Institute of Legal Executives. I am disappointed to confirm that we only held one CPD accredited presentation last year, although unusually it was a 2-hour course. Other presentations were arranged that had to be cancelled for different reasons. A talk by Severn Trent was cancelled due to the low take-up. A presentation on building control was cancelled due to the presenter being ill and off work for quite a considerable time. As he has now returned to work I am hoping that we will be able to run that same presentation later on this year. Nevertheless, I recognise that our members wish to benefit from the education that the presentations bring, and enjoy a handy location and inexpensive fees. We will endeavour to increase the number of presentations available during this coming year. I wish to remind you that the committee welcomes suggestions of topics for presentations. Also, if anyone attends presentations elsewhere and finds them useful, then please mention them to us.

One change in our format for presentations is the start time. This has changed to 5:30 p.m. from 6 p.m. as this was indicated to us as being more convenient.

We have started e-mailing notifications of presentations to most of our members. This has been of benefit to us, particularly saving time and postage. However, most recently when circulating details of this event almost half of the e-mails were returned "undelivered". From this we gather that our database is out of date and we will be asking you to supply us with your current e-mail addresses shortly.

You are all probably aware that the Association has a website. Have any of you accessed the website? I try and keep most of the information up-to-date. Forthcoming events tend to show the next presentations. In the education and training section we record the presentations that have been held. We have now started to put minutes from our committee meetings on the

site. There are two on there currently. The minutes from the last meeting have yet to be agreed, but once they are then they will be added to the site. The minutes from this meeting will also be placed on the website. If you consider that the site could show other information of benefit to members then please let us know.

During the course of this last year I have relied heavily on our administrator, Diane Grice. I am sure that the rest of the committee have also benefited from her involvement with the Association. The arrangement has worked particularly well as Diane is based in the same office as me in Nottingham. However, Diane is taking Licensed Conveyancers exams outside of her employment and was starting to find that the work involved in supporting the Association was affecting her studies. For this reason Diane has stood down as administrator. I would like to voice the thanks of the committee for her endeavours during this last year. This has meant that the committee were fearful of being left unsupported and none of us really have the time to cover the work that the administrator has been carrying out. It was with some relief that I have been able to find a replacement for Diane. I would like to introduce Natalie Hearne who has taken over the role. Natalie is another much organised person and is keeping us on the right track. She also is based in the same office as me and so we will be able to work closely together during the forthcoming year. I am sure that we will all benefit from her assistance and so I would like you to welcome Natalie to the Association.”

05.08 TREASURER’S REPORT

A statement of accounts for 2007 was circulated to those in attendance. Liz Knott stated that the accounts were all in order and although the balance was lower than current years this is mainly due to subscriptions being down, accounting for a loss of about £120. In comparison though the spending has not increased and has stayed at a constant with what we are receiving. Liz Knott stated that she would be happy to answer any questions on the accounts, although none were raised.

06.08 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The constitution states that the Committee should comprise of

the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 members. The following Officers offered themselves for re-election:-

Chairman	David Morton	Smith Partnership
Secretary	Chris Mills	Land Registry
Treasurer	Liz Knott	John M Lewis
Member	Michael Sayer	Briggs Sayer
Member	Joanne Jones	Moody & Woolley
Member	John Rourke	Derby City Council
Member	Mike Garratt	Flint Bishop & Barnett
Member	Paul Meffen	Smith Partnership

Those in attendance raised no objections. As a result the existing committee retained their positions.

The following committee members had offered their resignation from the committee:-

Member	Steve Milne	Robinsons Solicitors
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07.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The matter of subscriptions was raised by Chris Mills who recommended the following:-

- Propose to retain the same levels of fees
- Propose to maintain the presentation fees in line with CPD recommendations

This was accepted by all in attendance.

FUTURE IDEAS

Chris invited members to forward any ideas for future presentations, along with any other ideas for discussion that not only involve conveyancing matters.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.