

READING CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 13 April 2019 at The Changing Room, Thames Lido, at 2.00 p.m.

Committee members present: Richard Bennett – Chairman
Alison Bennett – Membership
Penny Kemp - Hon. Treasurer
Amanda Martin
Adam Sowan
Sean Duggan
Clare Platts
Lynette Edwell

39 other members attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies had been received from 17 members including Fiona Rycraft, Hon. Secretary. A welcome was extended to new member Terry Dixon and potential new members Steven and Wendy Ross.

2. MINUTES OF 2018 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018 – 2019

The Chairman's Report had been circulated and made available on the Society's website. He reported on the Society's activities during the past year and on the Society's continued support of Civic Voice. Forthcoming events for 2019 included: a talk for members covering developments in Reading town centre (June) as part of our contribution to Civic Day (June) and a planned Conservation Area walk with Terry Dixon for Heritage Open Days (September); a trip to Cheltenham (August); and a further Churches Tour organised by Lynette Edwell (September). A series of talks to other groups (Rotary Clubs / Abbey School) is planned. There were also plans for a visit to see modern architecture in Oxford, probably in 2020.

4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were now 198 members (200 last year) which included 7 honorary life members. 10 new members had joined and 12 had not renewed their membership, for a variety of reasons.

To date subscriptions for 2019 totalled £1483. No Gift Aid had so far been received for 2019; Gift Aid for 2017 and 2018 had been received in March 2019. A further amount of £350 (to date) would be reclaimed later in the year.

5. HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Hon Treasurer (Penny Kemp) reviewed the accounts, copies of which were available at the meeting, and which are viewable on the website. Paul Welch RCA had agreed to continue to examine the accounts. The balance in the bank at year's end was £7,623.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Amanda Martin took the chair for the election of the Chairman. Richard Bennett agreed to stand for one further year; he was elected unopposed, proposed by Penny Kemp and seconded by Vicky Abel.

Committee Members: Several people had expressed an interest in joining the Committee; they will be invited to attend the forthcoming Committee meeting in June and may be co-opted subsequently.

All other members of the Committee were all willing to stand again. They were duly elected en bloc, proposed by Katrina Parker and seconded by Tom Christie.

7. ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

Paul Welch was willing to continue as examiner of the accounts. He was elected unopposed. Proposed by Penny Kemp, seconded by Christabel Winny.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a question from the floor about ways of attracting new, and younger, members. The Chairman explained that few were recruited via talks, as some of these were given at dining events.

The committee had discussed taking part in the Town Meal and the suggestion from the floor of taking part in Waterfest was equally a good one. Both will be considered for 2019.

Michael Aris spoke briefly about Stratfield Saye and he encouraged members to visit now it is open for visits this season.

Helen Lambert spoke about William Marshall and the campaign to erect a plaque to him on Caversham Bridge. She explained that fund-raising is progressing well with just over £1,000 (of the £4,300 target) to be raised. Helen thanked the Civic Society for its support and guidance, in particular the handling the donations enabled Gift Aid to be reclaimed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30 p.m.

After the meeting refreshments were served, then Anne Green Jessel gave a talk on Lost Lidos which was well received. Anne's talk was filmed by Sodalite Productions as part of a proposal they were developing on Lidos / Lost Lidos.

20 April 2019