



Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

Registered Charity no. 1166580

Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Cheltenham Civic Society CIO held on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.30p.m. by Virtual Zoom.

Members present:

Bruce Buchanan, Tom Clark, Fiona Clark, Richard de Carteret, Hilda de Carteret, Peter Eyres, Paulette Faulkner, Andrew North, Jim Markland, Rosemary Harvey, James Hodsdon, Judie Hodsdon, Chris Jenkins, Sue Jenkins, Neela Mann, John McElroy, Rob McCausland, Mary Moxham, Chris Rimell, Sandra Rimell, Rob Rimell, Cecil Sanderson, Jennifer Stapleton, Lloyd Surgenor, John White, Janet White, Nick Southwell, (representing Willans LLP) and four others.

Trustees present:

Eight Trustees were also present :

Andrew Booton (Chair), Peter Sayers (Vice Chair), Claire Attenborough (Hon Treasurer), Michael Richardson (Hon Secretary), Tess Beck, Steve Bryson, Hugh Curran, Sarah Harvey.

1. Apologies for absence

The apologies notified to the Hon. Secretary were taken as read.

2. Statement of compliance with the CIO constitution in the light of the Covid-19 situation

The Chair read out a statement of compliance which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th March 2019

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Election of Trustees

Trustee changes were as noted on the Agenda.

The following were unanimously appointed as Trustees of the Society to serve for a period of three years: Tess Beck, Steve Bryson, Hugh Curran, Sarah Harvey and Michael Richardson (two years).

5. Appointment of the Chair, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer

The following were unanimously appointed to the offices of the Society for the forthcoming year

Chair – Andrew Booton

Hon Secretary - Michael Richardson

Hon Treasurer – Claire Attenborough

6. Annual Statement of accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2019

The Hon Treasurer presented the summary accounts which could not be presented in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions. She commented that, due to the limited income and expenditure, no independent examination had been required but the Trustees accepted the figures prepared by Andrew Chard. There was no need for members to approve this statement.

7. Annual Statement of accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Hon Treasurer presented the summary accounts. Income from membership was up but Parmoor House was not available for room rental for three quarters of the year which resulted in reduction of budgeted income of £8,000. The Society received a £10,000 Coronavirus Grant and a £20,000 Legacy from Ida Phillips.

Expenditure was also lower than previous years as neither the Summer Party or any lectures could be held. The main expenditure was preparation of the newsletter and running of Parmoor House. In summary the accounts looked healthy with total unrestricted funds of £75,000.

The Hon Treasurer also provided members with a more detailed statement of the Society's Income and Expenditure.

James Hodgson questioned the value of Parmoor House shown on the accounts as £900,000. The Chair explained that under the Charity Act 1990 we are required to obtain a 'best value' estimate from the Royal Society of Chartered Surveyors in the event of a disposal so this figure will be checked – the current estimated value is £1.2 million.

A figure for the repairs of Crosses is shown in the accounts. This was covered by the Lottery Grant Heritage Fund and any surplus over the costs was returned to them.

The Chair thanked the Hon Treasurer for her report and also recorded his thanks to Lloyd Surgenor for helping to maintain the accounts for the period between the previous and current Hon Treasurers.

8. Chair's Annual Report

The Chair made a short presentation expanding on his written report. The Coronavirus had affected the Society's abilities to achieve progress towards its principal objectives but we have done the best we can. 2021 should provide the scope for more activities. The Society will aim to take up delayed presentations by, amongst others, the Gloucestershire Diocese, Gloucestershire Highways and Cheltenham College. We are in another uncertain year so will have to wait for things to stabilise before being able to make firm plans for the various activities we hope to run.

Sarah Harvey and her team presented virtual Heritage Open Days and more are planned for this year, hopefully in a more physical form.

The Planning Forum has a strong reputation and both the content and comments in their regular reports are welcomed by councillors, architects, planners and others including developers.

Hugh Curran has taken over as Membership Secretary and has been instrumental in setting up a Civic Society WhatsApp group. Mike Duckering was thanked for his work as website manager.

The Chair thanked the retiring Trustees and praised the volunteers for the work that has been put in.

The Chair noted with sadness the death of Kevin Blackadder of Cheltenham BID and paid tribute to him.

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Chair of the Society

The formal business having been concluded, the meeting closed at 8.08 p.m. and was followed by an open forum which discussed a number of items including:

- When Covid-19 restrictions allow the Society hopes to run the Civic Awards event at a safe venue.
- A start was made in 2017 to create a database index of the Civic Society's records. Scrapbooks going back to 1951 record a lot of the Society's work and are always popular at events in Parmoor House. Perhaps these could be offered to the Local Studies Library where they may be of greater benefit and easier access than Parmoor House? This will be considered, bearing in mind the safety of the material. Phil Collins has been working on digitising images from the scrapbooks during the lockdowns. Members who would be interested in helping would be very welcome.
- Some organisations are running monthly Zoom lectures. There is a lot of work in coordinating with speakers and in organising the arrangements that need a lot more

time than the normal events. It is also a matter for speakers, some of whom are less comfortable presenting on Zoom.

- Cheltenham Borough Council plans to update images of listed and locally listed buildings in Cheltenham and to have these uploaded onto the Historic England website. The Society will be working in partnership on this activity and will be calling for volunteers to take the photographs.
- Members raised concerns over the state of pavements and roads, especially the increasingly common use of tarmac infill instead of replacement slabs or stones. The Successful Streets Group would be campaigning for an improvement in surfaces in the coming year.