

**MINUTES of the 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held online on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 8pm.**

<p><b>PRESENT:</b> Sir Clive Booth (President, in the Chair); Tony Joyce, Margaret Maden (Vice Presidents); Ian Green (Chairman); Gillian Coates (Vice Chairman); Richard Dodd (Hon Treasurer); Vernon Porter (Hon Secretary); Gillian Argyle, Chris Church, Liz Grosvenor, Penelope Lenon, Sue Stewart, Louise Thomas, Peter Thompson (trustees); and a further 22 members.</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>President's Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>The lockdown restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic had obliged the Society to conduct its AGM online as a webinar for the first time. To simplify proceedings, material already published would not be repeated, but time would be allowed for questions to be raised. And, rather than attempt to tally votes for those items requiring formal approval, the President would ask only for any votes against or abstentions.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Sarah Hendriks (trustee)</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019</b></p> <p>The motion to accept the Minutes as an accurate record of the 2019 AGM was proposed by Gillian Coates, seconded by Richard Dodd and carried unopposed.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from the 2019 AGM Minutes</b></p> <p>The following subscriptions will be payable from 1<sup>st</sup> October: Individual Member £15; Joint Members living at same address £25; Student Member £5.</p> <p>Ian Green explained that the Society had been running a deficit since 2017, which was unsustainable. The last increase had been in 2006, and the new rates were still modest in comparison with other Civic Societies. Corporate membership rates were also to be increased. Sponsorship will be sought for special projects, but this will have to await the end of pandemic restrictions.</p> <p>No questions or objections were raised.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>This had been available for some weeks and was taken as read. No questions were raised. The motion to accept the Report was proposed by Penelope Lenon, seconded by Vernon Porter and carried unopposed.</p>

<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Reports and 2019 Accounts</b></p> <p>These had similarly been available for some weeks and were taken as read. No questions were raised. The motion to accept the Report and Accounts was proposed by Ian Green, seconded by Gillian Coates and carried unopposed.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Votes of thanks</b></p> <p>The President noted with deep regret the sudden and untimely death of Alan Hobbs, who had patiently and efficiently organised the issue of tickets for walks and visits.</p> <p>Thelma Martin and Wendy Robinson had both stood down from the Executive Committee; the President thanked them for their contribution to the Society's work. He also thanked Terry Bremble, who had stepped down as convenor of the Programme Group, although she will continue as a member of that group.</p> <p>Finally, he expressed the Society's great appreciation for the energy and commitment that Vernon Porter continues to bring to the role of Secretary, which has of late included managing online meetings such as this AGM.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Election of additional Vice President</b></p> <p>Proposed by Ian Green and seconded by the President, Imam Monawar Hussain MBE DL was elected a Vice President unopposed.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Officers for 2020-21</b></p> <p>Proposed by the President and seconded by Penelope Lenon, the four officers of the Society (Ian Green – Chairman; Gillian Coates – Vice Chairman; Richard Dodd – Hon Treasurer; Vernon Porter – Hon Secretary) were re-elected unopposed.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Executive Committee Members for 2020-21</b></p> <p>Proposed by the President and seconded by Vernon Porter, the eight other Committee Members (Gillian Argyle, Chris Church, Liz Grosvenor, Sarah Hendriks, Penelope Lenon, Sue Stewart, Louise Thomas, Peter Thompson) were elected unopposed.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Margaret Maden drew attention to a forthcoming survey which will offer members the opportunity to help shape the Society's strategic direction. Its completion should take about 15 minutes, and a strong response would clearly be very helpful.</p> <p>There being no further business, the President thanked the Committee and the members of the various groups for their work over the past year. He also thanked everyone for attending before closing the meeting at 8.25pm.</p>