

<p>PRESENT: Sir Clive Booth (President, in the Chair); Margaret Maden (Vice President); Ian Green (Chairman); Gillian Coates (Vice Chairman); Richard Dodd (Hon Treasurer); Vernon Porter (Hon Secretary); Gillian Argyle, Chris Church, Liz Grosvenor, Penelope Lenon, Louise Thomas, Peter Thompson (trustees); Jim Girling, Thelma Martin (trustees-elect); and a further 40 members.</p>	
1	<p>President's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The President welcomed everyone to the Society's second online AGM. He regretted that members without internet access were unable to attend but, given continuing uncertainty about when the pandemic might permit meetings to be held in person, the Executive Committee had judged it best to proceed.</p> <p>He further noted that the papers for this meeting had been circulated in advance and made available on the Society's website well ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>He recommended reading the Annual Review and the thrice-yearly <i>Visions</i> as the way to keep abreast of the Society's many activities. Members had also been surveyed this year; the response had been very good, and the many helpful comments were now informing the direction of the Society's work.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Sarah Hendriks (trustee), Terry Bremble, Andrew Pritchard</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the AGM held on 17 June 2020</p> <p>The motion to accept the Minutes as an accurate record of the 2020 AGM was proposed by Richard Dodd, seconded by Gillian Coates and carried unopposed.</p>
4	<p>There were no Matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes</p>
5	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Having been available for some time, this was taken as read. The motion to accept the Report was proposed by Penelope Lenon, seconded by Vernon Porter and carried unopposed.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>Treasurer's Reports and 2020 Accounts</p> <p>Similarly available for some time, these were also 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. Richard Dodd was sincerely thanked for all his work as Treasurer.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Votes of thanks</p> <p>Noting that the need for an independent voice for Oxford had never been greater, the Chairman thanked all those who had worked to make it heard – the Committee, the specialist groups and the members themselves.</p> <p>Sue Stewart had stood down from the Executive Committee; the Chairman thanked her for her contribution to the Executive's work and expressed his pleasure that she remains an active member of the Planning Group.</p> <p>The Chairman also extended his thanks to the President and Vice Presidents for their guidance and support.</p> <p>The President in turn thanked the Chairman for his energetic leadership and the huge commitment of time he gives to the Society's business, especially in the light of his own professional responsibilities.</p> <p>Finally, the President expressed the Society's great appreciation for the continued commitment and diligence that Vernon Porter brings to the role of Secretary, which has this year included the successful management of webinars and online meetings, including this AGM.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Election of Officers for 2021-22</p> <p>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>9</p>	<p>Election of Executive Committee Members for 2021-22</p> <p>Seven other Committee Members (Gillian Argyle, Chris Church, Liz Grosvenor, Sarah Hendriks, Penelope Lenon, Louise Thomas and Peter Thompson) were re-elected unopposed.</p> <p>Two new members, Jim Girling and Thelma Martin, were also elected unopposed.</p> <p>The President noted that Thelma had been a valued member before her late husband's illness, and was delighted to welcome her back. Jim is a distinguished</p>

	<p>architect and has been a valuable contributor to the Planning Group's work, especially on major schemes where we have been invited to join pre-application discussions.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>NO OTHER BUSINESS having been raised, the President closed the formal proceedings at 6.50pm and opened the meeting to general discussion.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Responding to a question from Geoffrey Randell about responses to our submissions on planning applications, Gillian Coates (co-ordinator of the Planning Group) said that we had begun during the past year to track progress with respect to comments made, and should have proper statistics by the next AGM. Some of our recommendations for rejection had indeed been rejected, although it was obviously hard to know how influential we had been.</p> <p>The President observed that, regardless of outcome, it was still important to offer comments.</p> <p>The Chairman added that our work on planning also went beyond individual applications and extended to strategy, where we like to think we have an impact. We work closely with the Growth Board and the Councils, who appear to value our contributions highly.</p> <p>With reference to the membership survey, Christopher Coombe asked what had emerged and what the outcome would be. The Chairman started by highlighting the year's activities with reference to the Society's four main aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>influencing</u>, where the Futures Group has been looking particularly at how transport works across the county, and working to promote a model that will relieve congestion; 2. <u>informing</u>, where the challenges of the pandemic have obliged us to make greater use of technology such as Zoom, and encouraged us to look at other ways of communicating: we had conducted the membership survey primarily online and, given its success, are now planning to conduct more, shorter surveys to gauge members' views on specific topics. The first of these, on revitalising the Covered Market, will be circulated very soon. But we will not be abandoning our traditional means of communicating with the membership: the survey had revealed that members enjoyed <i>Visions</i> in its current form and wanted it to continue as a paper publication; 3. <u>cooperating</u>: we are working to develop more and stronger links with other community groups, with a particular emphasis on increasing our inclusivity. OxClean has always been our biggest community initiative, and we hope it may still be possible to organise an event this year when pandemic restrictions are lifted; 4. <u>learning</u>: our membership already has a wide and deep pool of collective knowledge, and we are seeking better to harness it as well as to add to it. <p>Hilary Bradley, co-ordinator of the Communications Group and editor of <i>Visions</i>, added that the survey had made it clear that members want to be more involved, and the Covered Market mini-survey is the first step towards achieving that. We have also taken on a vacant shop window in the High Street to mount displays about our</p>

work. This was a new direction, and anyone who could offer window-dressing skills would be warmly welcomed.

Christopher Coombe wondered if the surveys generated the responses needed, and whether there might usefully be further consultation on draft submissions. The Chairman agreed that more dialogue within the Society would be very welcome.

There being no further comments, 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 7.05pm.