



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 16th October 2025 Held in the Kindle Centre, Hereford

1. **Introduction and Welcome to Hereford Civic Society's AGM**

Jeremy Milln, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 23 Members present including Officers and Committee Members. The meeting was quorate.

Officers and Committee Members in Attendance: Jeremy Milln (Chair), David Fowler (Treasurer), Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes (Vice Chair), Chris Bucknell (Minutes Secretary), Ben Nash, Martin Leaton, Alan Bucknell

2. **Apologies**

Viv & Anthony Barraclough, Sue Edwards, Philip Baldwin, Anne Harbour, Joseph Cole, Barbara Ferris

3. **Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM held on 17th October 2024**

It was proposed that these be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposer: Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes **Seconder:** Ros Peter

All were in favour. The minutes were duly adopted as a true record of the 2024 AGM

4. **Chairman's Report 2024/25**

The report had been circulated to all Members in advance of the Meeting.

Jeremy Milln, the Chair, began by saying that he was extremely grateful to his predecessor, David Fowler, who had led the Society so skilfully over the previous five years, stepping back from the role of Chair at the 2024 AGM but remaining as Treasurer. Thanks were also given to the Vice Chair, Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes, Jeremy Milln saying he owed her a considerable debt of gratitude for her long service to the Community of Hereford as Councillor and Mayor and the wealth of insight that she had given the Society over the years. Thanks were given to Ros Peter, who arranged the meeting and excursion programme and to Chris Bucknell who provided secretarial support. Thanks were given to the other Committee Members and to the Conservation Planning Sub-Committee volunteers – Bob Heath, Laura Sommerville and Peter Taylor who had resigned in May 2025. Visiting experts included Darren Ray and Christian Montez who advise on Transport and Conservation matters respectively.

In addition, the Chair said he was particularly grateful to all the Members for the support given throughout the year, without them the Society would not be able to achieve its aim.

Remember our Purposes

The core purpose of Hereford Civic Society (HCS) was

- To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit
- To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit and give related advice and information
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit

The Chair stressed that it was this which underpinned the sense of civic pride for those lucky enough to live in a city as beautiful and richly historic as Hereford, and much of the Society's work was trying to build better places to live, making towns and cities more liveable.

It was noted that the Woolhope Club catered for the natural environment as well as archaeology and geology and, in a similar way, HCS dealt with not only the built environment but the spaces in between.

The Chair highlighted that the Society was always looking for Members to serve on the Committee or Sub Committee and if anyone felt this was something they could offer to get in touch with him. There was also a lack of a News, Website and Social Media Lead; Leominster has an excellent newsletter and HCS would like to do something similar, making the Society, and its aims and objectives, more visible. The Chair also added that anyone who wanted to write letters to the Hereford Times, as an individual, to voice their support or concerns for various issues, should do so.

Civic Voice was the parent organisation for all the Civic Societies across the county, currently around 320, operating at a high level, liaising with government, giving advice and support to local Civic Groups. A key component of this advice being progressive ideas about the reform of the planning process. The Chair explained that Civic Voice had always done a good job, operating at a high level, but had started to have financial difficulties. It lost its Chief Executive and had recently appointed Rob Hattersley who had started to turn the organisation around, but key underlying issues had arisen which meant that the organisation did not operate as a sustainable model, partly because, unlike Hereford, many of the Civic Societies were now not supporting it.

4 options had been put forward and The Chair asked the Membership to vote on which one should be supported when he, and David Fowler, attend the Civic Voice AGM in November.

Collaboration or merger with like-minded body – 7 votes

Orderly closure – 0 votes

Volunteer led survival – currently there were only 5 trustees – 1 vote

Wind up and start up again from scratch – 0 votes

Meeting and Events Programme

There had been a very successful meeting and event programme in 2024/25 and thanks were given to Ros Peter for putting it together so efficiently, this vote of thanks was reinforced by Members. Visits had included Wellbrook Manor, Whitfield Court, St Fagans Museum, Dyffryn Gardens and the Coningsby Hospital and Museum.

Hereford Times Talking Point – the Chair frequently wrote a Talking Point submission for the Hereford Times and he stressed that if any Members had comments or had any topics that they would like covered to let him know. He stressed that as Chair of Hereford Civic Society, he needed to be impartial about the various issues.

All other work the Chair undertook was covered in his report which had been circulated to all Members. This included Planning, specifically the Transport Hub and designs for the Museum and Art Gallery. The City Masterplan had been put together by consultants following recommendations from Historic England and the Chair felt that, as a planning tool, a Masterplan is necessary as it is a design code Special Planning Document (SPD).

The Chair particularly wanted to highlight the work of Darren Ray, a skilled architect who had volunteered to help HCS design state of the art transport schemes. His material would be used to develop the next iteration of display boards which were used at events such as Hereford Histories Day. Darren Ray was thanked for all his support to HCS.

Finally, the Chair touched on the Award Scheme for Built Environment which would highlight the work of the many skilled architects working in Herefordshire and which would be launched in May 2026.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2024/25 Annual Accounts and Budget for 2025/26

This had been forwarded to all Members in advance of the meeting. David Fowler gave a brief overview saying that the cost of insurance had gone up over the last couple of years, it now being over £400 against the previous figure of £250. This was due to Civic Voice not now offering an umbrella insurance policy which, in previous years, had been used by Civic Societies around the country. The Treasurer had been looking into this and, in conjunction with Howden Insurance Broker, had worked up a policy which included all the required cover for an annual premium of £300, the benefit of which would be seen in the 2025/26 accounts.

The Society was now acting as an accounting service broker for West Midlands Amenity Societies Association (WMASA) holding funds for them under agreed conditions, which is why the income was showing an additional £591.20 on the accounts.

The Treasurer noted that Lloyds Bank were now levying charges on charities and for this reason he had moved the bulk of the funds to CCLA, an Investment Manager who looked solely after Charity funds. They had provided an Instant Access Account which paid interest, last month this was 4%; over the year this would provide around £180 to £200 interest which far offset the Bank Charges levied by Lloyds.

The Treasurer briefly discussed the proposed budget, saying that, overall there was a net surplus of £720 in 2024/25 and a surplus of £500 has been built into the 2025/26 budget for next year but this may increase because of the benefits gained from the CCLA account.

It was proposed that the Accounts for 2024/25 and the Budget for 2025/26 should be approved

Proposer: Marcell Lloyd Hayes **Seconders:** Alan Bucknell

All were in favour.

6. Appointment of Accounts' Examiner.

Andrew London had kindly accepted this role following last year's AGM and had examined the Annual Accounts for 2024/25. It was proposed he be appointed Accounts Examiner for 2025/26.

Proposer: Ros Peter **Seconders:** Ben Nash

All were in favour

7. Election of Officers

Marcelle Lloyd Hayes wished to stand down as Vice Chairman but to remain on the Committee. Martin Leaton had volunteered to take on the role of Vice Chairman.

- Chairman: Nominations received: Jeremy Milln
- Vice-Chairman: Nominations received: Martin Leaton
- Treasurer: Nominations received: David Fowler
- Secretary (role as described in the Chairman's Report): Nominations received: Chris Bucknell

All those nominated were willing to stand. There were no other nominations.

It was proposed the above be voted on en masse.

Proposer: Jeremy Milln **Seconders:** Stuart Edinborough

All were in favour

8. Election of Members' Representatives to the Executive Committee

The Current Constitution required a minimum of 2 and not more than 8 Member representatives.

Currently, Alan Bucknell, Martin Leaton and Ben Nash served on the Committee as non-Executive Members. Marcelle Lloyd Hayes was willing to serve on the Committee and Martin Leaton had accepted

the role of Vice Chair. All were willing to serve another year. The Chair asked if any Members were willing to serve on the committee. There were no further nominations. Members present unanimously agreed that Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes, Alan Bucknell and Ben Nash should continue on the Committee.

9. Proposal that Annual Membership Subscriptions for 2026/27 Remain Unchanged

Single £15; Two living at the same address £25. This was agreed by all

10. Proposal that the Suggested Donation for Non-Members Attending Meetings be Increased from £3 to £5 with effect from the Society's November 2025 Meeting

Proposer: Ros Peter **Seconder:** Jane Townsend
All were in favour

11. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

It was proposed that the 2026 AGM be Thursday 19th November 2026. This was a month later than usual as it would give more time to prepare the accounts and to have them examined.

A question was asked as to whether the date for the AGM was in the Constitution and David Fowler said that it was not.

A Motion was put forward to change the date of the AGM to November

Proposer: Martin Leaton **Seconder:** Marcell Lloyd Hayes

CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.20hrs.