



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 20th October 2022 Held in the Kindle Centre

### **Introduction and welcome**

David Fowler, Chairman welcomed everyone present. The AGM followed on from a speaker session. 26 Members stayed for the AGM.

All Members had received the agenda and AGM papers by email. Paper copies of all documents were available at the meeting.

**Committee Members in Attendance:** David Fowler (Chair and Treasurer), Barbara Ferris (Vice Chair), Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes, Chris Bucknell, Alan Bucknell, Ben Nash

**Apologies** – Victoria Wegg-Prosser, Henry Connor, Jeremy Milln, David and Jane Straker, Christian Montez and Carmen Bowes

### **Approval of Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 21st October 2021**

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

**Proposer:** Alan Bucknell      **Seconded:** Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes

All were in favour and the minutes were duly adopted as a true record of the 2021 AGM.

### **Chairman's Report**

This had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting and copies were available at the meeting. David Fowler gave an overview of the key points.

### **Management of the Hereford Civic Society**

The current Committee Structure includes a Conservation Sub-Committee which reported to the Management Committee. The conservation committee is tasked with reviewing planning applications for properties which are either listed buildings or are in, or in close proximity to a Hereford Conservation Area. The Society endeavours to be positive in its comments suggesting changes that would improve design/layout/appearance. Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes represented the Civic Society on Hereford City Planning Committee (a non-voting role).

The Chair reported that the Management Committee have had to deal with many challenges during the past three years, including the COVID outbreak which had also negatively affected many community organisations. The Chair expressed his appreciation of the support received from the membership and members of the Committee in what have been difficult circumstances.

The current Committee was small in number and was ably assisted by members on the conservation areas sub-committee and others, in particular Ros Peter, Nigel Higgs and Andree Poppleton who performed valuable roles without being members of the Management Committee. The Meeting proposed a vote of thanks to them all.

## **Constitution**

The current constitution was written 40 years ago and is in need of updating. Not to change the Society's objectives but to bring it in line with current ways of working, for example the use of online meetings and communication by email.

The Chair asked for volunteers willing to look at the Constitution and put forward suggestions for how it could be brought up to date.

## **Activities and Meeting Programme for Last Year**

The Society was extremely grateful to Ros Peter for arranging the speaker programme which had proved very popular, and which had helped to sustain the membership and interest in what had been a difficult period. The Staycation Programme had proved popular with short walks around the city. The outing programme had been reintroduced with the current year's trip to Hay Castle and Talgarth Mill being oversubscribed and much enjoyed.

## **Looking to the Future**

The Chair said that there was much work going on behind the scenes, responding to planning applications, looking at consultations etc. The Civic Society's response undoubtedly influenced the decisions that Herefordshire Council and Councillors made, and this needed to continue. Of particular concern was protecting our heritage, for example the activities of landlords wanting to convert the upper stories of properties to provide domestic accommodation.

The Society was looking to form a Transport Sub-Committee and would welcome interested members making themselves known.

The Chair finished by saying the Society needed to hear more from its members, to inform its collective thinking and arguments so that, together, we can propose solutions to our city's future health, wealth and wellbeing.

## **The Chair invited Comments and Questions from those present**

Barbara Ferris presented her personal Trustee Report to the meeting, saying that she would be standing down from her position as Vice-Chair because she felt she could offer more effective support by canvassing views and co-ordinating small flexible discussion groups where members could share expertise and concerns. Barbara proposed that the Society used its 50th anniversary year to work with the three other Herefordshire Societies (Ross, Leominster and Ledbury) to develop a joint vision for the county, identifying common, achievable aims.

It was noted that while the proposal for small flexible discussion groups was welcome, these needed to develop/ present recommendations to the Management Committee. The Chair welcomed the proposal saying that each group should include a committee member, who would be the conduit for upward reporting and thanked Barbara for her input and support.

## **Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2021/22 Accounts**

The accounts had been sent to all members. Paper copies were available at the meeting. The Chair (in his role as Treasurer) talked through the main points, saying that it had been a successful year with funds at year end at an all-time high.

The outgoing committee felt that the coming year, the Society's 50th anniversary year should be marked in some special way and accordingly £1,000 had been set aside for this purpose.

A question was asked about the money set aside for the Design Awards. David Fowler said Herefordshire Council had passed a resolution to instruct their Officers to develop a scheme which would publicly recognise civic pride, including recognising good design, repurposing old buildings etc. and would be a county-wide scheme. The Hereford Civic Society would participate in this scheme, possibly alongside other Civic Societies and community groups. Herefordshire Council would help to fund its costs.

It was proposed the accounts for 2021/22 should be accepted.

**Proposer:** John Thorne **Seconder:** Ros Peter All were in favour and the accounts were accepted

### **Proposed Budget for 2022/23**

Note 4 in the Notes forming part of the financial statements set out a proposed budget for the coming twelve months. David Fowler said that it was intended a further £1,000 would be set aside for a project (or projects) to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society.

It was proposed that the 2022/23 Budget be accepted

**Proposer:** John Thorne **Seconder:** Ben Nash

All were in favour and the Budget for 2022/23 was accepted

### **Election of Officers:**

#### **Chairman – David Fowler**

**Proposer:** Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes **Seconder:** Chris Bucknell

**Vice-Chairman – Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes Proposer:** David Fowler **Seconder:** Barbara Ferris

**Treasurer:** it was proposed that this role was split between the financial monitoring and the role of Membership Secretary.

**Treasurer:** David Fowler assisted by Patricia Tierney undertaking the role of Membership Secretary

**Proposer:** Ros Peter **Seconder:** Ben Nash

**Secretary:** it was suggested that there was not a single role for a Secretary as Chris Bucknell undertook work on the website and Mailchimp and David Fowler fulfilled functions required by the Charity Commission. It was agreed that present arrangements would continue.

All the above positions were agreed unanimously by those present at the meeting

**Election of Additional Members to the Executive Committee** (Constitution requires a minimum of 5, maximum of 15).

Currently Marcelle Lloyd Hayes, Alan and Chris Bucknell, Ben Nash and Jeremy Milln served on the Committee as non-Executive Members and all were willing to serve an additional year.

This was agreed unanimously by those present at the meeting

The Chair encouraged others to put themselves forward to join the Committee (can be co-opted onto the Management Committee at any time) or to undertake roles outside of the Committee.

### **Discussion/Proposals: Plans to mark the Society's 50th anniversary**

The membership via a working group to be tasked with bring forward proposals.

There was no further business. The meeting ended at 21.15