

**Minutes of the THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BISHOP'S WALTHAM SOCIETY
held in the Church Hall, Free Street at 7.30 pm on 16th February 2017**

Chairman Tony Kippenberger welcomed members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from the President Alan Inder as well as Tony and Di Hunt, Ray and Debbie Crump, Mike and Jenny Hilary and Sandy Kara.

MINUTES of the 30th AGM having been circulated to members with the newsletter; these were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by John Riches, seconded by Doris Grover.

MATTERS ARISING from the minutes. There were no matters arising.

RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE REPORT: John Hayter proposed adoption of the report but raised several issues. These included his concerns over the decline in membership numbers; the apparent lack of review of planning applications; the need for the Society to become involved in environmental projects; the possibility of adopting from BT for £1 the telephone box in The Square and turning this into a greenhouse and the improvement of older people's wellbeing by creating more seating on circular walks to/from the High Street area. He was particularly concerned that the Constitution doesn't headline environmental issues. He suggested that the new Constitution be withdrawn and that 14 days' notice be given of an Extraordinary General Meeting to review and agree a revised Constitution in advance of the next AGM.

The Chairman asked for comments from the members. Chris Williams said he would have appreciated it if John Hayter had circulated his comments to members in advance of the meeting in order for them to be fully considered.

Anita Tylor said that so far as membership numbers were concerned, she had been present at most meetings last year and these were all extremely well attended and that the Society does seem to be recruiting new members. Tony Kippenberger confirmed that 10 new members had joined since last October. He agreed with John Hayter that younger members are needed and commented that following his talk in October on the origins of Bishop's Waltham, he had been approached to give the same talk in the Jubilee Hall for young mums.

Pat Lambert commented that the telephone box was still in working order.

Tony Kippenberger confirmed that neither the existing or new constitutions refer specifically to "environment" but agreed to consider amending Object 3 in the new constitution to include "secure the preservation ... historic, *natural and scenic* or public interest". He also agreed to consider amending Power 11 to read "Undertake surveys ...in relation to any *natural or historic features* ...".

Tony Kippenberger said he didn't propose to remove the CIO vote from this meeting since over 30 years the Society has been able to do environment work with the existing wording so it is not necessary for changes to take place within the next 14 days. It had always been the intention of the Trustees to review the Constitution at the end of its first year and amend as appropriate.

One member who had joined 8 months previously said that the society needed to be more "friendly" - after the first meeting he and his wife had attended they stayed for coffee but none of the existing members had approached them to introduce themselves. He felt that the Committee should keep a look out for new members attending meetings and to make a specific point of welcoming them. Tony Kippenberger agreed and apologised that they hadn't been made welcome when they first attended.

Ian Leesmith raised a query regarding the whereabouts of the results of the Big Tree Survey that had been carried out some years ago. Tony Kippenberger confirmed that he has these in his study and agreed it is most important that these are kept as a record for future use. The Society did consider undertaking an ash tree survey following the outbreak of ash die-back disease, but there had been no volunteers forthcoming.

The Chairman asked for any comments, suggestions or volunteers based on John Hayter's comments but none were raised.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the adoption of the Executive Report was proposed by John Hayter, seconded by Chris Williams.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORT: The Treasurer, Keith Fry, presented the financial report. He commented that the increase in income under Meetings was as a result of money donated for refreshments at the meetings. The Gift Aid figure represented three years' worth - in future this is likely to be nearer £200/£300 a year.

The expenditure included a paper stock as well as a £1,000 donation to the North Pond Conservation Group.

Keith Fry thanked Paul Emmerson in his absence for the work undertaken as Independent Examiner, and asked for comments or questions on the report.

John Hayter commented that assets of £5,194 indicate that the Society is not achieving its charitable objective by making appropriate grants. It would make it difficult to ask others to fundraise for projects with this amount in the bank.

Pat Morris commented that we should look at the purpose of having the money. The Society spends each year what it takes in and it is important to have a capital amount. Tony Kippenberger agreed, adding that the Society needed to be able to have immediate access to funds. If the money hadn't been available when working with English Heritage on the Palace guidebook, it would have been necessary for the Society to take out a loan to cover this cost. Instead it could act immediately.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the adoption of the financial report was proposed by Anita Taylor and seconded by Susan Tatton-Brown.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS : Tony Kippenberger confirmed that there is currently no Vice-Chairman in place, but that the other officers of the committee were all willing to be re-elected; Chairman Tony Kippenberger, Treasurer Keith Fry and Minute Secretary Deborah Crump. Motion agreed nem con.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tony Kippenberger introduced Eileen Rainey who has been co-opted onto the Committee. The following were duly elected as committee members: Fred Woodfine, Robin Shepherd, Pat Morris, Jonathan Simmons, Sandra Boyd, Ray Crump, Eileen Rainey. Motion agreed nem con.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXAMINER OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS: Paul Emmerson has confirmed he is willing to continue as Independent Examiner. This was agreed nem con.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE NEW CIO CONSTITUTION FOR THE SOCIETY: Tony Kippenberger asked for any comments or questions. Anita Taylor said she would appreciate an explanation of the phrase "act as a coordinating body by cooperation with" in item 4.8 of the new Constitution. Tony Kippenberger gave as an example that the Society has set up a planning sub-committee and one of the things that sub-committee has done is to approach Robert Shields in his role as Parish Councillor to discuss how we might - where appropriate - work together on planning issues.

A comment was also made regarding item 12.e of the new constitution "The trustees shall normally be resident within the Civil Parish of Bishop's Waltham". Tony Kippenberger explained the word "normally" was used since, for example, we didn't want to preclude someone from Swanmore who wanted to join the trustees.

At the conclusion of the discussion the adoption of the new constitution was proposed by Mike Lukey and seconded by Chris Williams. The motion was passed nem con.

MOTION TO AGREE TRANSFER OF ASSETS TO NEW REGISTERED CHARITY: Keith Fry explained that there are at present two charities running concurrently and that it is necessary to transfer the assets from the former charity to the new charity. Proposed by Ian Leesmith, seconded by Doris Grover and passed nem con.

MOTION TO EMPOWER THE ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE BEST TIME FOR SUCH TRANSFER OF ASSETS: The Executive Committee need to have the authority to be able to transfer the assets

but without defining precisely when this will be done. Proposed by John Riches, seconded by Jenny Williams and passed nem con.

MEMBERS' FORUM - ANY OTHER BUSINESS: No other business raised.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS: Tony Kippenberger thanked the members for their attention and also specifically thanked John Hayter for his comments saying it demonstrated how much John cares about the Society.

**Minutes of the THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BISHOP'S WALTHAM SOCIETY
held in the Church Hall, Free Street on 16th February 2017
immediately following on from the 31st AGM**

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION: Tony Kippenberger asked Keith Fry to explain the process. Keith confirmed that it was necessary for the Trustees to resign from the former committee in order to be eligible for re-election to the new committee.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES: Tony Kippenberger confirmed that all officers and members of the committee were happy to stand for re-election. Proposed by Mike Boyd, seconded by Doris Grover. Agreed nem con.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND/OR VICE PRESIDENT(S): Alan Inder has confirmed he is happy to continue as President. Proposed by Tony Kippenberger, seconded by Pat Morris, agreed nem con.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS: Agreed nem con.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN: Tony Kippenberger thanked all the members for their support during this process.

On behalf of all the members, Doris Grover thanked Tony Kippenberger and the Committee for all they do for the Society. Having had experience of this in the past, she appreciates all the hard work that gets done behind the scenes in order to make the Society effective.

After the AGM, members enjoyed cheese and wine and this was followed by an extremely interesting talk given by Tony Kippenberger on "Carved Graffiti in Bishop's Waltham".