

KIRKBY LONSDALE & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting, held in The Lunesdale Hall on Monday March 12th. 2018

The Chairman, Mrs. Anne Burgess, opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee Members and the Members of the Society.

1. Apologies for absence

Margaret Bunch, David Pelter, Tom Felix

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 45th AGM, held on March 13th. 2017, which had been circulated, were accepted as a true record when section 3 was corrected to read '14 days are required.....'

Proposer: Mike Marczyński

Seconder: Ken Humphris

Passed nem con

3. Change to Constitution

The Motion for change to the Constitution was that the phrase 'audited accounts' be changed to 'accounts'.

The Treasurer outlined the reasons for the Committee's request to change the Constitution in connection with the requirement to receive the accounts at the A.G.M. The Society's annual income of £3100 was well below the threshold of £25000, set by the Charity Commission as requiring an audit. An objection to this proposal was raised from the floor, by Mr. P. Molyneux, who was concerned that vital safeguards, which could protect both the Society and the Trustees, were being removed. The Treasurer replied that, as monthly accounts are scrutinized by the Trustees at the Society's monthly Committee meetings and, as all expenditure has to be approved by the Committee, sufficient safeguards would still exist. The cost of paying an Auditor/Examiner, in the region of £200 to £300, was also a factor. As any independent person could perform this rôle, those present were asked if anyone would volunteer their services or knew of anyone who could, but there was no response. The Chairman pointed out that the search for an Auditor/Examiner could continue, even if the proposed change to the Constitution was implemented.

The Motion was then Proposed by Mike Marczyński and Seconded by Paul Smith and put to the Vote, with 34 members voting 'for' and 1 member voting 'against'. As this exceeded the requirement for a two-thirds majority, the motion was passed.

Thanks were expressed to Robert Cass, who had acted as Examiner this year and had offered to act as an advisor in future, if required. As he had not accepted a fee, a small gift would be offered to him.

4. Chairman's Report

Anne Burgess presented the following report for 2017.

This year saw major changes in the membership of the committee, with all four officers changing and two new members being co-opted. This brought us to full strength, but inevitably we felt the loss of so many years' experience and dedication to the Society by Ken, David, Sue and Judith. While settling in, our focus was on the basic purposes of the Society rather than initiating any new projects or activities. We intend that next year will be more active and look forward to involving members in that activity.

Overall membership was similar to recent years at about 250. However, the average number of members attending the seven winter talks increased for the third consecutive year, up 20% to an average of 75, with a capacity audience of 120 for John Hamlett's delightful film 'Remembering Kirkby Lonsdale'. Thank you to everyone for supporting these talks, the last ones to be organized by Peter Stockdale, who also did all the technical support. We thank him warmly for so many entertaining and educational evenings.

The planning sub-committee reviewed, brought to the full committee and monitored where appropriate about 100 new planning applications across the Rainbow Parish. We agreed that we should respond to twelve, nine to object or suggest improvements, and three to support, typically for good reuse of a building at risk. These numbers are similar to the previous two years. Some

responses now go to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, rather than South Lakeland District Council, but otherwise our process is unchanged.

The web site, new last year, was developed with improved navigation, very regular updates and new information such as the reports for the AGM. In future we wish to share much more committee information such as the background to our planning decisions.

Members may already be aware of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which becomes law across the EU on 25th. May 2018. This is a major overhaul of data protection law affecting all bodies which keep personal data, however small, and hence our Society. The winter newsletter included a simple statement about what personal data we keep about members; how we use it; and how members can change that. However, we have a little more to do to ensure we satisfy the Regulation e.g. asking permission to contact members in particular ways.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mike Butcher presented the following report for 2017.

As your new Treasurer I welcome this opportunity to speak to you and to thank you and the rest of the Committee for your support during the past year. I have sought to maintain the high standard set by the previous Treasurer, David Dalgouttie

As is the custom, I have presented the accounts with details of the preceding year to enable a comparison to be made.

Stripping out the grant from the Christopher Robins Trust (CRT), our income was slightly up from the previous year. Book sales were down but Town Guide sales were up generating an income of £450, all stock having been written off at purchase. This year's course, organized by Margaret Bunch, was very well attended and generated a surplus of £408.20, after taking into account income booked in the previous year. Attendance of our lectures, as mentioned in the Chairman's report, was up and this combined with the increase in entrance fee generated an increase in receipts of £350.

Our expenditure was broadly in line with last year's, savings in administration costs being offset by this year's course expenses. Overall however we had an excess of expenditure over income of £708.72, partly as a result of significant expenditures of £226.29 on the installation of the Margaret Llewelyn Davies plaque, a donation of £250 towards the Middleton Roman Milestone interpretation panel and £805.40 in respect of John Hamlett's film project. This project is on-going and is being funded by the previously mentioned grant from the CRT.

Interest rates on funds on deposit continue to be low and in line with the restrictions on where Charities can hold their funds, there is little that can be done to increase our interest income. Our unrestricted funds now stand at £10,779.03 an increase of just under £320 from last year. Whilst we see this as vindication of exercising due financial prudence, we will be actively seeking one or more new projects in the coming year to utilise some of the excess funds above our reserves policy of £4500.

I would like sincerely to thank Mr. Robert Cass for all his help after agreeing to be our external examiner for this year and providing me with his invaluable expertise and assistance in the presentation and preparation of the accounts.

I trust that they meet with your approval and would welcome any questions you might have.

6. Trustees' Annual Report

Copies of the TAR for the period 1/12/17 to 31/12/17 were distributed to members present.

The Chairman pointed out that although the Charities' Commission requires a TAR to be produced, it is not a requirement for it to be submitted to them.

7. Questions on the Reports Presented

There were no questions asked.

8. Adoption of the Chairman's, Treasurer's and Trustees' reports.

The Chairman asked for the acceptance of all three reports.

Proposer Phil Molyneux

Seconder Jill Humphris

Passed nem con

9. Election of Officers:

Chairman: Anne Burgess
Proposer: Peter Stockdale
Seconder: Miriam Stocks
Passed nem con

Secretary: David Stocks
Proposer: Mike Butcher
Seconder: Mike Marczynski
Passed nem con

Treasurer: Mike Butcher
Proposer: Lynne Seignot
Seconder: Mike Marczynski
Passed nem con

Membership Sec: Paul Smith
Proposer: Miriam Stocks
Seconder: Jill Humphris
Passed nem con

10. Election of Committee Members:

Mike Marczynski, Lynne Seignot, Audrey Phillips, Miriam Stocks, David Pelter and Margaret Bunch.

Proposer: Mike Butcher
Seconder: Phil Molyneux
Passed nem con

Anne thanked all the committee members and their families who help. The members were thanked for their support.

11. Any Other Business

Peter Stockdale was thanked for his 4 years' service to the Society. During his tenure as Programme Secretary, attendances had increased significantly. A meal gift-token was presented to him to show the Committee's appreciation of his contribution.

Anne reminded all present that the Membership Secretary would be available at the end of the meeting, for renewal of memberships.

There was no other formal business, and the Chairman closed the AGM at 8.05 pm.

Members then had the pleasure of a talk by Simon Williams, entitled 'The Matchless Tragedy – The Morecambe Boating Disaster of 1894'. This was followed by drinks and light refreshments.