

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

This was held on Friday 6 October at 3.00pm at the Elim Church, Bath.

The Society's members were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, Hilary Grainger, and the Lord Mayor of Bath, Dine Romero.

1. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved as a true record of proceedings. *Proposed by Mark Watson and seconded by Steve Roman and carried unanimously*

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

3. Chair's Report

Professor Grainger spoke of the success of the Nottingham AGM- the first "in person" AGM since covid. The main business of the Society continues to be conducted very successfully by the team at PG, Tim Bridges in the West Midlands and volunteers in our regional groups around the country. Highlights of the year included our President, Griff Rhys Jones publicising the annual "Top 10 buildings at risk" and the Young Victorians starting to organise their own events. The campaign to stop the disfiguring redevelopment of Liverpool Street station has been led by the Society as part of LISSCA coalition and it is critically important to stop setting a planning precedent which could put at risk all listed buildings. An appeal had been organised and had already received £20k of donations. She paid tribute to Valerie Bayliss who had recently retired as Chair of the South Yorkshire group and welcomed Nigel Slack who has succeeded her. She sent condolences to the family of Ann Hodgson formally Chair of the Manchester Group who died last year and was pleased that Steve Roman has been the Chairing the group on a temporary basis. The West Yorkshire group continues to thrive as does the Birmingham Group whose conservation awards bring publicity and kudos to the group. Thanks go to Stephen Hartland, Nina Hatch and Helen Pursey. There are concerns for the Liverpool Group and she asked for members in the area to consider stepping forward to help. Tiffany Snowden has been co-opted to the board of Trustees and had express interest in helping the northern regional groups. Finally, she paid tribute to Ken Moth who has been Deputy Chair of the Society for many years as well as being a long-standing Chair of the Northern Buildings Committee. She has greatly relied on his sound judgement and thanked him for overseeing the refurbishment of Priory Gardens.

4. Finance Review

Lynn Percy, the Society's Finance Trustee, reported on the 2022 Financial Report. The accounts showed that the deficit on a recurring basis has increased this year. This was due to a reduction in income generated by events, increased staff costs, partly due to a return to casework travel and the running costs of Priory Gardens as it has been used on a more regular basis. All of which has meant that total expenditure has increased by 24%. This had been offset

by increased income from donations and subscription income which has held up well helped by more members signing up to gift aid. The Society has received grant income for employing staff via the government funded “Kickstarter” scheme and from CADW for the Welsh Heritage Day. IT costs have also reduced. She thanked Ben Sims for his fund-raising activities and being successful in applying for some regular grants. The balance sheet was satisfactory largely due to legacy income. The Trustees will continue to target returning the Society to an underlying surplus but, overall, she believed that the Society was currently in good financial order.

5. Director’s Report

Joe O’Donnell spoke about ongoing work to upgrade the website and the project to refresh the Society’s branding, which was last changed over 10 years ago. He thanked Jesse Freedman, David Low and Marie Clements (the Society’s new Media and Communications Officer) for their help with this. The Director has successfully lobbied the government, which has committed to consult on the Society’s proposal to remove permitted development rights for demolition of unlisted buildings. He has done this with the support of Baroness Andrew, Lord Carrington and Lord Shipley. The Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies is looking at how the current funding model for the amenity societies should be reformed. The Director thanked Ben Sims for his help with this. The Society’s next Journal would be on “French Architecture and the English 1830-1914” and the next book in the Victorian Architects series would be on “Edwin Rickards” by Tim Brittain-Catlin, which is due to be published in November 2023.

6. Resolution A: To reappoint Neil Jackson as Trustee of the Society

The Chair had 39 proxy votes in favour of the resolution with two abstentions proposed by Kit Wedd and seconded by Loraine Long - the resolution was passed unanimously

7. Resolution B: To re-appoint Ben Sims as a Trustee of the Society

The Chair had 39 proxy votes in favour of the resolution with two abstentions Proposed by Henry Sainty seconded by Mark Watson - the resolution was passed unanimously

8. Resolution C: To re-appoint Henry Sainty as a Trustee of the Society

The Chair had 39 proxy votes in favour of the resolution with two abstentions Proposed by Mark Watson seconded by Steve Roman - the resolution was passed unanimously

9. Resolution D: To Receive the report of the trusted and the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Chair had 39 proxy votes in favour of the resolution with one abstention Proposed by Angela Vukoje and seconded by Penny Hopkins - the resolution was passed unanimously

10. Resolution E: To re-appoint Begbies as Auditors to the Society

The Chair had 38 proxy votes in favour of the resolution with two abstentions and one against. Proposed by Lynn Percy and seconded by Sophie Sainty - the resolution was passed unanimously

11. Special Resolution 1: That Paragraph 3 c of the existing Memorandum of the Association of the Company Setting out our objects be altered to include promoting the inherent sustainability of the repair and reuse of historic buildings.

The Chair had 40 proxy votes Proposed by David Low and seconded by Alan Davies - the resolution was passed unanimously

12. Special Resolution 2: That Paragraph 5 of the Articles of Association be altered by adding “the general meeting may be held by Video conferencing or other technology if deemed appropriate by the Trustees.

The Chair had 39 proxy votes with one abstention and 1 against. Proposed by Ken Moth seconded by Loraine Long - the resolution was passed unanimously.

13. Any other business

There was none.

The formal business of the AGM closed at 4.31pm and was followed by presentations by the Society’s caseworkers.