

The Coventry Society.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Anglican Chapel, London Road Cemetery on Monday 11th April 2022.

- 1. Attendance.** 29 members of the Society were in attendance at the meeting including the 9 Committee members.

Apologies: Apologies were received from: Eleanor Nesbitt, James Rose, Harry Tether.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members to the Anglican Chapel recently refurbished by the Historic Coventry Trust.

- 2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 12th April 2021.**

- a) Accuracy. The minutes were accepted as being accurate.
- b) Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

- 3. Chairman's Report.**

This was published on-line prior to the meeting and a full report may be read on the Society's website. In his address the Chairman highlighted aspects of his report.

These included:

- A thank you to Vince Hammersley, who had to step down as the Society's Chairman for health and family reasons, for his work for the Committee and Society generally. Also to Colin Walker, long standing member of the Committee and Treasurer, on his retirement from both and for his commitment to the Society over many years.
- An increase in membership despite the pandemic. This stood at 160 as of January 2022. Many new members lived further afield and were able to join the Society' activities on-line.
- Sympathy expressed at the loss of three long standing members.
- Resumption of summer visits. In 2021 visiting historic properties in Coventry.
- The Society's wide brief. This covers not just concerns for heritage buildings but a whole raft of contemporary issues.
- Involvement with projects such as the Council's proposed Blue Plaque Scheme as well as our own scheme and helping to access money for projects.
- The Society's responses to City Council consultations and planning issues.
- Concern at the number of churches under threat in the city.
- The Society's connections with Civic Voice and regret that the proposed annual conference in Coventry had not been able to proceed.
- The Society's current peripatetic life-style hosting meetings in different locations which while interesting, was not ideal.
- Over the year a total of 159 articles had been published and the Society had a prominent presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram [but not Tik-Tok!].

Marie Allen thanked the Committee for their work during the year. This was endorsed by members present.

4. Treasurer's Report.

a) Accounts for Financial Year 2020/21. The full accounts were now published and audited after the delay due to ill-health and the pandemic. These showed the Society's account as of January 31st 2021 stood at £2,954.23. A surplus of £115.72 compared with 31st January 2020.

The accounts were accepted and agreed by members without dissent.

b) Accounts for Financial Year 2021/22. The Secretary apologised for the delay in having these accounts audited but due to ongoing ill-health by the Treasurer and the handing over of the accounts to the new Treasurer, which had only been completed three weeks before, there had not been sufficient time to have them audited. This would now be done and the results published as soon as possible.

5. Appointment of Auditor(s).

Colin Walker was willing to audit the accounts for 2022/23.

He was proposed by: J. Payne and seconded by: P. Walters.

This was unanimously agreed.

6. Election of Officers.

a) Election of Secretary: J. Payne was proposed by T. Kenny and seconded by P. Walters.

There were no further nominations and J. Payne was duly elected.

b) Election of Treasurer: J. Passmore was proposed by T. Kenny and seconded by J. Payne.

There were no further nominations and J. Passmore was duly elected.

c) Confirmation of Deputy Chairman: Due to the resignation of V. Hammersley from the Chairmanship and the consequent installation of P. Walters as Chairman, the Executive Committee at its meeting on 18th December 2021, had designated T. Kenny to serve as Deputy Chairman until April 2023, in accordance with Articles 25 and 28 of the Constitution. This was endorsed by members present.

7. Election of Executive Committee Members.

The following were nominated and had agreed to stand:

T. Cornfoot, J. Goodman, P. Hunter, A. Law, P. Maddocks, N. Norman.

All were proposed by P. Walters and seconded by J. Payne.

All were elected unanimously.

8. Further nominations to the Executive Committee.

Although there were no further nominations to the Committee, the Secretary appealed for interested members to put themselves forward. If anyone was unsure they could be invited to attend Committee meetings as observers. If they then agreed to join the Committee as a member, they could be co-opted until a formal vote at the next A.G.M.

9. Conferment of Life Membership on Colin Walker.

Following his decision to stand down from the Committee and relinquish the Treasurer's position, the Executive Committee had decided to confer on Colin Walker Life Membership. The citation was delivered by the Secretary, J. Payne.

Colin was a Coventrian born and bred and J. Payne spoke about Colin's early life in the city. His family ran a small engineering firm in the city and, Colin was involved from the age of 13. He spent seven years doing very advanced engineering in Canada but returned to take over the firm with his brother. He remained with the firm until his retirement. The firm has since been sold and the building converted to residences. Colin spent many years renovating his house in Spon End and after his retirement became involved with a number of voluntary organisations including the Spon End Forum, the Spon End Historic Building Trust, Allesley Walled garden and the Coventry Society.

P. Walters presented Colin with a certificate of Life Membership to mark the occasion.

Colin accepted the award and responded by addressing the assembled members.

10. A. o. B.

There was no further business and the Chairman concluded the A.G.M.

Following the A.G.M. David Butler, Head of Planning and Environment, Coventry City Council, spoke about the service he heads, the difficulties faced but looking forward to the tasks ahead.

The next A.G.M. will take place on: **Monday April 17th 2023.**