

EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

President: Peter Wadham
Vice-Presidents: Ben Bradshaw, Hazel Harvey

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Belmont Chapel on Saturday 21 November 2015 at 11.00am

1 Welcome

The President, Peter Wadham, welcomed 59 members to the AGM. The Chairman joined in with some announcements, notably the publication of *The Vanbrugh Sisters* by ECS member Christine Trigger.

2 Apologies

Mike Richards, Ruth Hawker, John Stirling, Sheila Stirling, Mike Dalby, Jean Stanbury

3 Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29th October 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising None

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's full report may be found on the Society's website. He covered the past year's activities under the following headings:

Visits and Open Morning topics, with thanks and a presentation to their organiser Ruth McLeish.

The work of the Planning Sub-Committee, with thanks and a presentation to Pamela Wootton.

Grants to good causes: the Gordon lamp, with thanks to Susie Hewitt, and the Wesley information board at the Mint.

Blue Plaques Scheme: with thanks to John Monks and his daughter. The Vanbrugh Sisters plaque is in place and the audio trail development is progressing. Three forthcoming subjects for plaques were announced: Harry Westlake, James Holman and Allen Lane.

River, Canal and Quay Group, with praise for Peter Nichols' chairmanship of what is now a fully active team. They plan to hold a public meeting to establish interest in forming a Friends of Exeter Canal. This, like the Theatre Group, will benefit from ECS support initially but become independent in due course.

Highways and Transport, with special mention of Trevor Preist's thorough study *Rush Hour*. With funding restricted on many fronts there is little prospect of City or County Council improving traffic flow or routes for cyclists.

Civic Voice: the Society will enable 10 members to join this national organisation as individuals. They will keep ECS informed of useful ideas/activities elsewhere.

Looking Forward: a hope that the next Local Plan will be more inspired than the last, which expired in 2011. The Chairman mentioned eleven major City and highways matters due for consideration in the coming year and expressed his personal hopes for Fore Street, a cycle network and a Green Belt policy.

The Report concluded with thanks to the Society's committee and other helpers, and particular thanks and a presentation to Pamela Coleman for her hard work and her professionalism as Secretary.

6 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2014-2015, pointing out the healthy improvement in income thanks to increasing membership. He thanked Jane Evans for acting as Independent Examiner. In answer to questions from the floor it was made clear that all publications stock was written off some six years ago, that CCLA is a reputable investment broker used by many charities, and that the ECS's high level of current account reflects the very low level of interest returns: it is not worth the cost of transferring the cash to CCLA management.

7 Membership Report

There are currently 158 e-mail addresses on the e-mailing list.

The membership figures for 2014-15 were as follows:

Life Members: 62 (up from 58)

Yearly members: 181 (up from 171)

Total members: 243 (up from 229)

Our membership was up 14 from previous year

We gained 29 brand new members and 4 new joint members

We lost 19 members from the previous year

Gordon Read claimed £443 in Gift Aid on these subscriptions (£355 last year, up £88).

8 Secretary's Report

Public Events: We opened our doors to the public on 6th June for a double talk on the 'Battle of Waterloo 200th Anniversary' which made a profit of £105. This will go towards the committee's agreed donation of £300 towards the restoration of Mercer's grave, being undertaken by Civic Society member Robert Pocock, who was one of the speakers.

Leaflets: We've had 2,000 professional leaflets printed for distributing in as many places as possible around the city in order to find active new members.

The President thanked the Secretary warmly.

9 Election of Officers and Committee Members

Felicity Murdin resigned as Minute Secretary.

The remaining committee was reelected en bloc by general acclaim.

Chairman: Keith Lewis

Treasurer: Peter Caspar

Secretary and Memberships: Pamela Coleman

Programme Secretary: Ruth McLeish

Other Committee members: Susie Hewitt, Pamela Wootton

Three nominated members, duly proposed and seconded, were elected unanimously to the committee: Diana Taylor as Minute Secretary, Margo Swift and Nerina Frampton.

10 Any Other Business:

None.

The President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 12 noon.