

## EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

**President: Peter Wadham**

**Vice-Presidents: Ben Bradshaw, Hazel Harvey**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Belmont Chapel on Saturday 19 November 2016 at 11.00am**

#### **1. Welcome**

The President, Peter Wadham, welcomed 59 members to the AGM.

#### **2. Apologies**

Gordon and Val Read, John and Sheila Stirling, Mike and Suzanne Walker, Bernard Frowd, Julia Sharp, Azmeena Ladha, Marianne Carnochan.

#### **3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM:** were approved and signed off.

#### **4. Matters Arising:** None

#### **5. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's full report is available on the website.

Keith Lewis said that this is his last Chairman's speech as he has come to the end of his three years in office. He covered the past year's activities under the following headings:

##### **Visits to places of interest:**

There were many visits to a variety of venues, and thanks were given to Ruth McLeish for all her hard work.

##### **Saturday morning meetings:**

We have heard about the work of ECQT, Development in the city and its hinterland, the hustings event in April and many more. Ruth already has events planned until next April.

He thanked Pamela Coleman for another year of dedicated work. She has given us many hours of her time over the past six years.

##### **The planning sub-committee:**

Led by Pamela Wootton this group of just four dedicated members scrutinise development proposals and maintain an active dialogue with planning officers. Thanks were given to Pamela Wootton for leading the team.

##### **Blue plaques:**

Our blue plaque co-ordinator John Monks has worked throughout the year to organise the erection of two plaques and work is still ongoing for another at St David's station. He has also completed and published a map trail of the city centre to support our audio trail.

There are now two new volunteers so we can now call them a team. Thank you John.

##### **The River Canal & Quayside, and Highways & Transport groups:**

These groups continue to monitor developments and proposals in their areas and to have dialogue with local authorities. There is a lot to monitor in these areas and the chairmen of both groups would welcome more members support. Thanks to Peter Nickol and Peter Cleasby.

##### **General Gordon lamp:**

At last year's AGM slow progress was reported regarding renovating the lamp located at the top of Heavitree. We have now managed to complete this and erect an information board. Thanks to Susie Hewitt for your perseverance.

##### **Greater Exeter local plan:**

We heard in September from the city council's head of development about current difficulties with the council's local plan. The council will now work with EDDC, MDDC and Teignbridge DC to develop a Greater Exeter local plan. Exeter Civic Society should engage with those

preparing the plan. There is to be a proposal later in the meeting for a change in our constitution to encourage members to help influence such development. Support is encouraged.

Exeter City Futures and Exeter Community Forum are two new influential organisations that will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

The Chairman said he has enjoyed the past three years although it has been a major commitment of time and energy and it is now time to hand over the baton. He wished his successor well.

## **6. Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer presented the accounts for 2015-2016 and he thanked Gordon Reid regarding gift aid receipts. He also thanked Susie Hewitt who was instrumental in gaining grants from Exeter City Council. £1,000 was given for the Gordon lamp project but cost was well over £1,000 in the end.

Thanks were also given to Pamela Coleman regarding income from memberships and Jane Evans in preparation of the accounts.

Accounts approved by a show of 15 hands.

The Accounts Summary for 2015-2016 is available on the website.

## **7. Membership Report:**

The membership figures for 2015-16 were as follows:

Life Members: 69 (increase of 7)

Yearly members: 184 (increase of 3)

Total members: 253

Our total membership was therefore increased by 10 from the previous year

We gained 32 new members and 7 members became life members.

Our Gift Aid Co-ordinator Gordon Read has recently claimed £585 on the 2015-2016 memberships in Gift Aid. This was helped by 7 who paid for life membership this year. Please remember to notify us if you either stop or start paying tax during the year as this will change your Gift Aid status.

There are currently 160 e-mail addresses on the e-mailing list. If you receive a group e-mail from Exeter Civic Society then check who it says you should reply to, as it may not be that address, and clicking the reply button will not send your reply to the right place.

## **Secretary's Report**

**Events** - We haven't had any large public talks this year, but we hosted our own version of BBC's Question Time for the local elections in April, 'Exeter City Question Time' with Keith standing in for David Dimbleby. This was a very successful event and all the panellists received a good grilling.

Our monthly Open Mornings continue to be a regular chance to get together and discuss society activities. It is most important that any visitors are made to feel welcome and have a good experience, so I try to introduce them to a member who can then look after them and make sure they have someone with them at all times.

**The website** has continued to evolve, and we do try to keep it updated. If you have any queries the answer can often be found on the website, and in the members' area you will find the accounts, constitution, AGM minutes, newsletters and information on the sub-committees. There are several people with access to the website and each are responsible for their own area, but if you feel any of the pages are out of date or provide insufficient information then let us know. The website is our shop window so we need to ensure the public is informed and impressed when they see it.

We have also started a Facebook page, although we need to establish how it can work for us and reach more people.

## **8. Election of Officers and Members for the Committee**

The following members are standing down from the committee:

Keith Lewis (retiring as Chairman)

Susie Hewitt, Nerina Frampton

The following members are willing to stay on the committee:

Peter Wadham (as President and Acting Chairman)

Keith Lewis, Peter Caspar, Pamela Coleman, Pamela Wootton,  
Ruth McLeish, Diana Taylor, Margo Swift.

The following new members were elected:

Christo Skelton: nominated by himself and seconded by Ruth McLeish

Paul Taylor: nominated by Diana Taylor, seconded by Pamela Coleman

John Monks: nominated by himself, seconded by Keith Lewis

Felicity Murdin: nominated by Margo Swift, seconded by Peter Wadham

Hazel Harvey: nominated by Peter Wadham, seconded by Margo Swift

Keith Lewis was thanked by the President for all his hard work and presented with a bottle of wine. Susie Hewitt and Nerina Frampton were also thanked by the President and presented with flowers.

A question was raised from the floor about the fact that there will be 5 new members but only 2 are standing down, will this be too many on the committee? Pamela Coleman confirmed that there can be 4 officers + 12 committee members making a total of 16. Felicity Murdin said that there was an amendment to the Constitution in October 2014 which approved the total number in the committee. The nominations were approved by a show of hands. We now have a strong committee.

## **9. Amendment to constitution:**

A proposal was submitted by Peter Cleasby and seconded by Keith Lewis, to add an additional Object to the Society's constitution. This was submitted for consideration at the AGM in accordance with clause 19 of our constitution - Amendment.

The proposed additional Object (Clause 2) is:

2.4 To monitor and influence future development of the environs of the city with regard to its impact upon the city's infrastructure, planning and quality of life for residents.

Peter Cleasby spoke in favour of the change with regard to areas affecting the city, and the need to influence outcomes regarding travel into the city. A member said it needs to be clear in whose voice we are speaking, ECS cannot speak for all members. A member talked about how air pollution affects people and buildings. Environs need to be defined, do we change the word "area" to environs. The question is the ability to decide what the boundary is. Peter Wadham suggested taking the matter back to the committee to define the correct wording but Christo Skelton thought that would delay for a year and to vote now.

There were 59 members present and two thirds (40) were required to carry the amendment. The total number of 40 was not reached and the amendment was not carried.

Those in support of the amendment – 33

Those who do not want to change the amendment – 19

Peter Wadham said the committee will look at the matter of boundaries further.

## **10. Any Other Business:**

On 3 December 2016 there will be a visit to St Michael's and All Angels church in Heavitree.

On Sat 10 December 2016 the Christmas lunch will be held.

On Sat 17 December 2016 the Open Morning will be about Friends of the Cathedral.

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