



The Birmingham Civic Society

Company number 6426178. Charity number 1123806

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at St Philips Chambers, 55 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS
on Thursday 27th November 2014 at 6:30pm

Present

Chair: Christine Cushing

Members: 37 other trustees and members, as listed at the end of the minutes

Non-members: 5 invited guests

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed the trustees, officers and members who attended the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from 50 members of the Society, as listed at the end. The Lord Mayor, as President of the Society, was very supportive of the Society but had been unable to attend and it was not possible for a deputy to come in his place.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2013 were approved as a true record, though Peter Miles noted that the list of those who had sent apologies had been truncated so his name and 11 others were omitted.

4 Annual report

The Chair presented the annual report, including the Annual Review booklet which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting.

She thanked all the Society's volunteers, including its ambassadors and the members of its various Committees as well as the Deputy Chairmen, Trustees and Secretary. St Philips Chambers were thanked for hosting the meeting, in a room that overlooked the cathedral, prompting recollection that the Society had arranged during World War II for the Burne-Jones windows to be stored in a place of safe keeping. It will be involved next year in celebrating the tercentenary of St Philips.

The Chair explained that the Society had continued to benefit from the cost savings made last year, while raising its profile in the city. The subscription prices had not been increased, and Trustees had taken on responsibility for doing administration, editing the newsletters, communicating on social media and applying for grants. Creative Tweed were set to take over management of the website and newsletter.

During the year blue plaques to Samuel Lines and John Henry Barlow had been installed. The Renaissance Award had been awarded to the *Birmingham, its people, its history* galleries in the Museums and Art Gallery.

The Birmingham Big Art Foundation had been set up as a separate charity to raise funds and manage the Big Art Project to mark the Society's centenary in 2018. A site had recently been identified near the Western end of the Eastside City Park.

The Next Generation Award continued to engage many local schoolchildren in actively considering civic responsibilities throughout the city. The Society's archives had been moved to the Library of Birmingham. Applications would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for cataloguing and mounting an exhibition for the centenary.

Birmingham Trees for Life (BTfL) was very busy in its ninth season, with 27 planting sessions planned. It had engaged a fundraising specialist, as the future of grants from the City Council and the Government could no longer be assured. Corporate sponsors such as Deutsche Bank had supported the project with time and money.

The Chair proposed a motion to adopt the annual report, which was seconded by Ross Bellamy and carried unanimously.

5 Annual accounts

The Hon Treasurer, Robin Barnes, presented the annual accounts which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting.

A set of columns had been used to show the allocation of funds. As a result of enlarged membership as well as expenditure savings there had been a surplus in the year of about £16,000, of which £10,000 had been used to establish a Centenary Fund. The former Schools Fund had been transferred to the Next Generation Awards which were serving a similar purpose.

In reply to questions it was noted that the Centenary Fund would be saved in an interest-bearing account, and that the administrative costs shown for BTfL actually covered project management which was delivered by two part time people.

The Hon Treasurer proposed a motion to adopt the annual accounts, which was seconded by Jagjit Singh Taunque and carried unanimously.

6 Special resolution

This item, concerning the Articles of Association, was deferred until the next AGM.

7 Election of trustees

Glyn Pitchford had resigned shortly after the previous AGM to concentrate on managing the Birmingham Big Art Project. Two retiring trustees – Cathy Connan and Bob Warman – had decided not to stand for re-election. They all intended to continue supporting the Society and were thanked for their valuable contribution over many years.

Three trustees, being eligible, had offered themselves for re-election:

Lorraine Francis, proposed by Kelvin Rose and seconded by Geoff Cole;
Paul Farrow, proposed by Robin Barnes and seconded by Kirsty Davies-Chinnock;
Stephen Hartland, proposed by Rita McLean and seconded by Jamie Justham.

[A fire alarm caused the meeting to be adjourned into Temple Row at this point.]

Motions to re-elect all three were carried unanimously and the Chair welcomed back those Trustees to the Board. Viv Astling expressed concern that several Trustees had not been able to attend the meeting and report to the members.

8 The year ahead

Geoff Cole confirmed that the Big Tree Fund was due to close at the end of the financial year. Both the Forestry Commission and Natural England were being reorganised, causing a hiatus in support for tree planting. BTfL's 40,000th tree was due to be planted in January.

[The meeting resumed within St Philips Chambers at this point.]

Kelvin Rose introduced the film he had made for YouTube, which was warmly received. Thanks were offered to all those involved in producing the film.

Gavin Orton reported that the Re-Imagine competition, launched in May to invite ideas for bringing new life to disused buildings, had attracted 29 entries in four weeks. There had been good coverage in the Birmingham Post and on the BBC. A further initiative was being planned for the year ahead. In reply to a question from David Treadwell, Gavin Orton said that the City Council had been referring fewer projects for consultation and he was seeking a meeting in order to offer further help.

Rita McLean thanked John Gale for erecting blue plaques. Since the year end there had been two further plaques to Rowland Emmett and Alderman John Bowen.

9 Any other business

Graham Winfield enquired about the future of the Birmingham Library building. Gavin Orton believed that demolition was likely to start early in the New Year, as the building had largely been stripped out already to minimise the risk of fire.

Veronica Treadwell drew attention to the Westley Green Millennium Green, which relied on voluntary funds. The Chair offered to include information in a newsletter.

Geoff Hipkiss was concerned about the Birmingham Connected white paper, which followed the Birmingham Mobility Action Plan. This had been a theme in the Society's *Birmingham's Future – Shape Your City* events and Sir Albert Bore had recently spoken on the subject at the Leader's Breakfast. It was agreed that the Society should arrange a debate on travel strategies during the year.

Ross Bellamy wondered whether the newly erected statue *A Real Birmingham Family* would remain in its current location. Gavin Orton believed that a redesign of Centenary Square was to be commissioned, which would extend to its works of art.

The Chair congratulated Kirsty Davies-Chinnock on winning Birmingham Business of the Year for Professional Polishing Services Ltd at the NatWest Venus Awards, and also Judy Dyke for winning the Lifetime Achievement award at the same event.

Cathy Connan announced that a set of slides would be put onto the website, along with the final report on the *Birmingham's Future – Shape Your City* events. As there was not sufficient time to present the report in detail at the meeting, Gavin Orton suggested that it should be discussed at a separate event. The Trustees would give thought to the best way of doing so.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Members present who signed the attendance sheet:

Viv Astling	Jamie Justham
Robin Barnes	Gerry McLaughlin
Ross Bellamy	Rita McLean
Martin Burton MBE	Peter Miles
David Clarke	Gavin Orton
Geoff Cole	Brian Peace
Cathy Connan	Anita Pickerden
Christine Cushing	Geoffrey Purkis
Pauline Davies	Kelvin Rose
Peter Davies	Dr Barrie Smith
Kirsty Davies-Chinnock	Anthony Tattum
Andrew Donaldson	Dr Jagjit Singh Taunque MBE DL
Lorraine Francis	Satinder Kaur Taunque OBE DL
John Gale	David Treadwell
Amardeep Gill	Veronica Treadwell
John Hipkiss	Dr Steve Walker
Derek Inman	Graham Winfield
Aslam Ismail	Sheila Winfield
Hari Jindal	Alan Woodfield

Apologies for absence:

Fiona Adams	Bryan Manley Green
Sir Ian Byatt	Mary Martin
Robin Christison	Yvonne Maslen
Anthony Collinson	Neil Maybury
Tony Cook	Elaine Mitchell
Celia Cox	Geoffrey Oakley
Malcolm Cox	Very Revd Catherine Ogle
Karen Daw	Sally Pennington
Nigel Dudley	Glyn Pitchford
Neil Edgington	Jean Pratt
Susan Elias	R G Pringle FRCS
Paul Farrow	Chris Rice
Heather Frazier	Cllr Shafique Shah, Lord Mayor of B'ham
Pete Gregory	Bernard Shepherd
Peter Heath	Andrew Singleton
Stan Hems	Heather Singleton
Geoff Inskip	Brian Summers
John James	Barry Tunnicliffe
Frieda Jonas	Elizabeth Tunnicliffe
Joe Jordan	Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of B'ham
Andrew Jowett	Nick Venning
Revd J N L Latham	Sarah Venning
Stella Layton	Dr Tim Watts DL, High Sherriff of West Mids
Derek Lea	Michelle Wilby
Janette Lloyd	Jayne Willetts

