



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at DWF LLP, One Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA
on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 5:15pm

Present

Chair: Gavin Orton

Members: 40 other trustees and members, as listed at the end of the minutes

Non-members: 6 invited guests, as listed at the end of the minutes

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed trustees and members present and thanked the host firm DWF.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham as President of the Society plus 32 members of the Society, 3 of whom had appointed the Chair as their proxy.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 were approved as a true record.

4 Annual report

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

Through its programme of events and activities the Society had engaged with new audiences and contributed to promoting Birmingham as a great city in which to live, study and work.

The Society was also honouring the impact made on the city by a number of people. A blue plaque had been installed to commemorate the figure skater John Curry OBE. The winner of the Renaissance Award was the Pig and Tail in the Jewellery Quarter, where a derelict building had been transformed into a vibrant pub.

The Next Generation Awards had involved 28,500 students from schools throughout the city and this year, for the first time, funding had been provided to enable the successful teams to implement their projects.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Birmingham, the Society's Gold Medal was to be awarded posthumously to Cllr Ray Hassall, who had passed away during the year. He had been a dedicated member and Trustee for many years and, as Lord Mayor, had been instrumental in establishing Birmingham Trees for Life. The 70,000th tree planted under this initiative was to be the start of Ray's Wood.

A campaign had begun to survey Birmingham's post-war architecture, with a view to ensuring that the best examples are retained rather than lost to new developments.

The Birmingham Big Art Project, chaired by Glyn Pitchford, had grown out of celebrating the Society's Centenary. A sonic artwork by Susan Philipsz – Station Clock – had been selected, and would form the centrepiece of a new public square in front of the proposed Curzon station for HS2. It would feature the recorded voices of more than a thousand residents, and there would be related educational activities.

5 Annual accounts

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

He reported that it had been a year of financial consolidation, with expenditure slightly lower than in the previous year. The Society was entering its Centenary year in a strong financial position; in addition to a specific grant of £55,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund there was a reserve of £17,000 to contribute to one-off activities in the coming year.

The financial surplus for Birmingham Trees for Life resulted largely from grants received in a single year in order to cover expenditure over several future years.

In response to a question from Glyn Pitchford, it was noted that the number of members was slightly down on last year, but most people had renewed their membership and the Society was aiming to reach 100 corporate members in its 100th year.

The cost of subscriptions, after several years without any increase, had gone up for individual members from £30pa to £35pa, for joint members from £45pa to £50 and for corporate members from £200pa to £250pa.

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

6 Election of trustees

Three trustees were retiring at the end of a three-year term of office and, being eligible, had offered themselves for re-election:

Steven Hartland, proposed by Glyn Pitchford and seconded by Anita Pickerden;

Christine Cushing, proposed by Geoff Cole and seconded by Rita McLean;

Lorraine Francis, proposed by Amelia Ladbrook and seconded by Caroline Durbin.

Motions to elect all three were carried unanimously. These Trustees were welcomed back to the board and the Chair thanked them all for the time they had devoted as volunteers and for agreeing to continue in the role.

Christine Cushing, on behalf of all members, thanked the Chair for his tireless work and enthusiasm in leading the Society and preparing the plans for its Centenary year.

7 **+PLUS Strategy**

The strategy launched at last year's AGM was being implemented. Some progress had already been made in how the Society communicates, in clarifying its identity, strengthening its influence, becoming stronger and building its legacy. This had led to identifying priority issues.

One example was the trees campaign which – although it failed to prevent the felling of an ancient plane tree on Broad Street – had resulted in continuing work with the City Council to develop a policy on tree management. The Society would be looking to influence certain other policies of strategic importance in a similar way.

8 **Any other business**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 5:40pm.

It was followed by the launch of the Centenary year's celebrations, entitled ***A City Beautiful*** – after the headline of the Birmingham Post's report on the establishment of the Birmingham Civic Society in 1918.

Trustees and Members present who signed the attendance sheet:

Viv Astling OBE DL	John Hipkiss
Alan Bain	Derek Inman
Robin Barnes	Satinder Singh Kaur OBE DL
Gianna Baxter	Gurminder Kenth
Mike Baxter	Amelia Ladbrook
Dr Michael Butler	Mary Martin
Caroline Coates	Rita McLean
Geoff Cole	Clive Philips
Christine Cushing	Anita Pickerden
Kay Dashti	Glyn Pitchford
Philip Davis	Geoff Purkis
Bal Davy	Sam Reader
Caroline Durbin	Chris Rice
Judy Dyke	Jagjit Singh MBE DL
Tina Francis	Matthew Vaughan
John Gale	Dr Nick Venning DL
Richard Garside	Sarah Venning
Bill Gough	Hon Alderman Jim Whorwood
Peter Gregory	Graham Winfield
Stephen Hartland	Sheena Winfield

Guests present who signed the attendance sheet:

Christopher Burden	Debbie Needle
Jane Harding	Simon Needle
Robert Jones	Prem Thakor