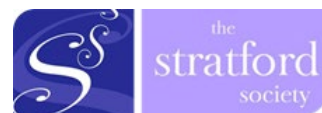


Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 21 June 2022

The White Swan Hotel



1. **Minutes** of the previous AGM on 7 July 2021 (held by Zoom) were accepted with no corrections.
2. **Chairman's Report** on his first year in office. There were 12 monthly events, all conducted online via Zoom. There were also three outdoor events for members: a 'Spine walk', inspection of the masonry of the north transept at Holy Trinity Church, and a memorable Garden Party at the home of Tony and Janet Bird in Billesley. The Society is taking the lead through the Town Strategic Partnership on plans for redevelopment of High Street and Bridge Street. It is also preparing six new pavement plaques for buildings along the Historic Spine, and is embarking on the four-year StratFire project, with a substantial grant from Historic England. The main concern is the ever-declining membership. It is imperative that we recruit members and get younger generations involved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** We broke even during 2021. The report and accounts are still awaiting signature by the independent inspector, but the draft is in its final form. Gift Aid provision by members has yielded over £1,000. Costs during 2021 were lower than previously because of the covid lockdown, and because all of our meetings were held by zoom there were no charges for room hire. We attracted a considerable amount of money for pavement plaques, which is separately listed as a designated fund. We remain in a healthy financial position and well able to deliver on our objectives. Furthermore we have received the first tranche of £10,000 from Historic England for the StratFire project, though not much of it has yet been spent.
4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner** It was resolved to approve the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the past year and it was agreed to re-appoint Burgis & Bullock as Independent Examiners of Accounts for 2023.
5. **Officer Reports** have been published on the Society website and are taken as read.
6. **Election of members of General Committee**

The following slate of candidates was accepted by unanimous vote of the members.

- a. Chairman – Lindsay MacDonald
- b. Deputy Chairman – John Scampion
- c. Secretary – Olga David
- d. Treasurer – Jonathan Devereux
- e. Membership – Ian Fradgley
- f. Transport - Jann Tracey and Steve Turner
- g. Planning – Margaret Cund
- h. Historian – Bob Bearman
- i. Civic Affairs – Ian Prosser
- j. Events – Lindsay MacDonald
- k. Town Centre – John Scampion
- l. Publicity – Helen Elliott

Dr Diana Owen was thanked for leading the Environment Group during the past year. As no-one has volunteered for election to this position, the post of Environment Officer remains vacant, and the General Committee may co-opt someone to fill it.

7. Any other Business

(1) The President, Dr Kevin Bond, noted the recent study with groups of students from three secondary schools in Stratford, to identify ways in which the town's environment could be improved.

(2) The Chairman noted that the Constitution, for the Objects of the Society, makes no mention of the environment. This should be included, and an amendment will be proposed for voting at next year's AGM.

(3) The Treasurer suggested that it would be good practice in future to hold the AGM within three months of the year end, i.e. before the end of March.

The meeting was closed and a presentation was given by Tony Bird OBE on 'Stratford Past, Present and Future'. He reminisced about his life in Stratford, including the many changes that have taken place since the Second World War. He also gave his views on the state of the town now, and proposals for what needs to be done to improve its appearance and provide better facilities for visitors.

Minutes by Lindsay MacDonald