



The Friends of Abingdon  
Civic Society

**MINUTES OF THE 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013 IN THE UNICORN THEATRE AT 7.30pm.**

- 1. Apologies for absence** were received from Marion Snelling, Sue and Philip Kendrick, Jenny Vince, Jill and Harry Love, Lesley Legge, Bobbie Nicholls, Glynne Butt, Judy and Spencer White, Janet Morgan and Richard Stoveall.
- 2. The Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** held on the 12 June 2012 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, and the Chairman signed them as such.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2012 AGM:** None.
- 4. Chairman's address:** The Society's Annual Report had been distributed before the meeting, and rather than read out the section containing his report the Chairman gave a verbal commentary. In particular he thanked Peter Clarke for his efforts in caring for the fabric of the buildings and for dealing with English Heritage on our behalf; in thanking Pauline Burren for her work he reported on the success of 2013's annual foundation lunch, which was attended by our President the Earl of Abingdon and his wife and he expressed the Society's thanks for, and appreciation of, the performance of Handel's Semele which had been organised by Glynne Butt and her team in celebration of 60 years of the Unicorn Theatre.
- 5. Acceptance of the Annual Report for the year 2012** was proposed by Peter Clarke, seconded by Caroline Bullock, and was carried without dissent.
- 6. Treasurers Report and Accounts:** The Hon Treasurer presented the report and accounts for the year to 31 December 2012. Turnover was increased but investment in some refurbishment in the area of archive storage and cupboard space had led to a small deficit. He anticipates that the Opera event will lead to a further increase in turnover, perhaps to over £40,000 in the present year.

A discussion of whether collection of payments via the website was worthwhile took place. Terry Boswell uses internet banking and employs Paypal to collect payments in her business, and asserted a belief that these facilities (including control of direct debiting) are offered free to charities. Peter Hallowell pointed out that such changes would involve development work on the website, but given that we have recently remodelled our website to make changes easier to introduce, it seems worth exploring the feasibility of such a mode of operation. A motion (proposed by Hester Hand and seconded by the Chairman) for the Executive Committee to examine whether such a change in our operations could benefit the Society was passed without dissent.

Terry Boswell also asked that the number of attendees at each general meeting be reported in future. (*Secretary's note: there were around 36 in attendance at this meeting*)

Terry Boswell proposed the motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Barbara Beach seconded it, and it was carried without dissent.

**7. Election of Officers:** Tony Legge has indicated that he is no longer willing to serve either as Hon Secretary or as a member of the Executive Committee. Appointment of Hester Hand to the position of Secretary has been proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Tony Legge. In addition the following have been nominated by the Executive Council

Chairman: *Mr M Matthews*

Vice Chairman: *Mrs S Bird*

Treasurer: *Mr J Burren*

Election of these four officers was carried unanimously.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Tony for his help over a period of years.

**8. Election of the Executive Council:** Elizabeth Drury, Caroline Bullock, Peter Clarke, Glynne Butt and Pauline Burren, whose membership of the Executive Council lapsed at this meeting had indicated a willingness to stand for re-election. Their re-election to the executive council, was unanimously agreed. Barbara Beach had been nominated (by Pauline Burren, seconded by Hester Hand) to take up the Executive Committee position vacated by Tony Legge, and her appointment was also unanimously agreed.

#### **9. Election of Vice President**

Rule 5 of the Society's rules allows for election of Vice Presidents of the society. The Chairman proposed that we honour David Clark of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record in acknowledgment of the work he has done for us and the sound advice he has given over a period of many years by electing him as a Vice President of the Society. His proposal was carried unanimously.

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

Hester Hand announced that members of the Executive Council are to meet with members of Abingdon Town Council in two weeks to present to them the Society's views on the plans for developing Abingdon Guildhall. The plans are presently on display in the Guildhall's lower foyer. She urged members to forward any views that they might have to herself or to Alan Bryden.

Alan Bryden thanked Hester for her hard work on behalf of the Society.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.05. Following a short drinks interval, an excellent presentation entitled "Abingdon Museum – Future Plans" was delivered by Jane Bowen, its curator.