



The Friends of Abingdon
Civic Society

**MINUTES OF THE 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2015 IN THE UNICORN THEATRE**

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from John and Pauline Burren, Glynne Butt, Anne Evans, Anne Gould, Hilary and Peter Green, Lesley Legge

There were 46 members present.

2. **The Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting** held on the 11 June 2014 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 2014 AGM:** None.
4. **Chairman's address:** this was circulated to all those present. In answer to a question, the Chairman confirmed that responsibility for initiating a Neighbourhood Plan rested with the Town Council.
5. **Annual Report for the year 2014** The Executive's formal report had been provided to members. Its acceptance was proposed by Helen Bush and seconded by Terry Boswell and was carried without dissent.
6. **Treasurers Report and Accounts:** in the absence of the Treasurer, Bruce Hunt presented the report and accounts for the year to 31 December 2014. In answer to questions he said that: the reason for keeping a sizeable balance in the current account was that our rules re signatories made it difficult for us to set up internet banking, so moving money between accounts was cumbersome; we had not had a Spring Craft Fair for the last two years largely because the Craft Fair organisers did not want to run one.

Michael Liversidge proposed the motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Brian Cozens seconded it, and it was carried without dissent.

7. **Appointment of an additional Vice-President:** Mrs Felicity Dick was nominated by Michael Matthews and seconded by Bryan Brown and the nomination was approved without dissent.
8. **Election of Officers:** the following had been nominated by the Executive Council and were approved without dissent:

Chairman: Bryan Brown; Treasurer: Bruce Hunt; Secretary: Hester Hand
No nominations had been received for the position of Vice Chairman

9. **Election of the Executive Council:** The following members, elected to serve until 2015, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Barbara Beach, Caroline Bullock, Peter Clarke, Elizabeth Drury.

There were vacancies for 3 more Council members and the following nominations had been received: Rosemary Allan, Richard Charles, Kevin Senior.

All of these nominations were approved without dissent.

10. Any Other Business: David Clark, Honorary Vice-President, thanked the retiring Chairman, Michael Mathews and Vice-Chairman, Sylvia Bird for their many years of service to the Friends of Abingdon and they were presented with tokens of appreciation. Thanks and best wishes were also recorded to John and Pauline Burren who were retiring but unable to attend. Michael, John and Pauline had been stalwarts of the Friends since the 1980s and Sylvia since 1993 and all would be greatly missed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.00 and was followed by an excellent talk by Michael Liversidge FSA, FRSA, the Emeritus Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Bristol University, on "*Revisiting St.Helen's Lady Chapel Painted Ceiling: The Artist's Workshop.*"