



THE FRIENDS
OF ABINGDON
CIVIC SOCIETY

**MINUTES OF THE 72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016 IN THE UNICORN THEATRE**

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Roger and Helen Bush, David and Genefer Clark, Marion Coates, Felicity Dick, Elizabeth Drury, Hilary and Peter Green and Jill Wivell.

There were 45 members present.

2. **The Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting** held on the 3 June 2015 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 2015 AGM:** None.
4. **Chairman's address:** the Chairman said that his first year in the post had been an eventful one. The Executive Council had undertaken a strategy review, as a result of which the Friends were trying to engage more members and non-members, through a wider range of events and activities; they were also developing plans for major enhancements to the buildings to secure them for future generations and bring them to the attention of a wider section of the population. This would involve applying for Heritage Lottery Funding, a long process, and he would make a fuller report next year. The Friends remained very active in Civic matters in the town – working with other organisations such as the Town Council, the BID and various community groups. Finally, he introduced the new branding/logo.
5. **Annual Report for the year 2015** The Executive's formal report had been provided to members. Its acceptance was proposed by Olga Senior and seconded by Bobbie Nichols and was carried without dissent.
6. **Treasurers Report and Accounts:** these had been published on the website and circulated to those present. The Treasurer commented that income had increased by £9k, due to higher wedding income and successful grant applications and that income had covered normal operating costs. However a number of major capital and revenue projects had been required and these had turned a surplus into an overall deficit of £24.4K which had had to be funded from reserves. He thanked Keith McDonald for acting as Independent Examiner for 2015 and Phil Addison for agreeing to perform the role in future. Acceptance of the accounts was

proposed by Caroline Bullock and seconded by Michael Matthews and carried without dissent.

7. **Election of Officers:** the following had been nominated by Joy McWhirter and seconded by Barbara Beach and were approved without dissent:
Chairman: Bryan Brown; Vice Chairman: Kevin Senior;
Treasurer: Bruce Hunt; Secretary: Hester Hand
8. **Election of the Executive Council:** The following members, elected to serve until 2016, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Barbara Beach, Pat Bryden, Glynne Butt, Bobbie Nichols. They were proposed by Buzz Brown and seconded by Olga Senior and there were no dissenters.

There was a vacancy for one more Council member but no further nominations had been received.

9. **Motion to increase membership subscription rates:** the Executive reported that membership rates had been unchanged since 2008. A brief survey had been done of the amounts charged by similar groups and they recommended that the AGM should increase the rates as follows from 1 January 2017:

	Single membership		Joint membership	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Annual	£8	£10	£12	£16
Life	£55	£100	£85	£160

The motion was proposed by Barbara Beach and seconded by Lorraine Atkins and was carried without dissent.

10. **Any Other Business:** The Chairman made a presentation to Jenny Berrell who had recently retired after well over 30 years involvement with the Society, most recently as our hard-working Curator. He thanked her - and her family - for all of their efforts and congratulated her on her recent Mayor's award for service to the community. The Chairman also welcomed the new Curator-Manager, Sarah Jones.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.05 and was followed by an excellent talk by Simon Wenham on "*The History of Salters' Steamers*".