



THE FRIENDS
OF ABINGDON
CIVIC SOCIETY

**MINUTES OF THE 74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018 2018 IN THE UNICORN THEATRE**

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from 36 members.
There were 54 members present.
2. **The minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting** held on Thursday 29 June 2017 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, and the Chairman signed them as such.
3. **The minutes of the Special General meeting held on 16 April 2018** were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, and the Chairman signed them as such.
4. **Matters arising** – there were none from either meeting
5. **Chairman's address**
The Chairman gave a brief address highlighting the main activities of the Society over the previous year. As well as the traditional uses of the Buildings we successfully ran new events such as an Open Day in May, 5 sold-out comedy evenings with Paul Mayhew-Archer, an early Music Concert in June and a new-style Craft Fair in November. All of these brought new audiences and this culminated the launch at the end of the year of the Unicorn Cinema which was proving amazingly successful.

On the Civic side, we had actively campaigned against some aspects of the Town Council's plans for the Guildhall/Abbey Hall, both on grounds of protecting the heritage of the old parts and the need to retain a suitable town-centre venue for large-scale events. This had continued into the current year, but the current situation was looking more hopeful. The same could not be said for the Upper Reaches and Old Abbey House, both still in a sorry state and giving a poor impression of the town. The Friends continued to try to persuade the District Council to take action on both.

He gave a brief update on current year activities including work on the Enhancement project and on the proposed governance changes and finished by thanking all those who worked for the Society, present and former Trustees, other volunteers, the Theatre manager and especially the new curator, Tim Miller, and his wife Brandi who had started in September and were making a valuable contribution.

6. Annual Report for the year 2017

The Executive's formal report had been provided to members. Its acceptance was proposed by Buzz Brown and seconded by Peter Clarke and was carried without dissent.

7. Treasurers Report and Accounts: these had been published on the website and circulated to those present. The Treasurer commented that comparisons with previous years were complicated by the presence of the income from the HLF grant and expenditure on the Resilient Heritage project. However the underlying position was healthy: income was up, albeit with a different make-up and was more than sufficient to cover operating costs. Bookings for 2018 were healthy so he had no concerns for that year. He thanked Phil Addison for his work as Independent Examiner. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Kevin Senior and seconded by Caroline Bullock and carried without dissent.

8. Election of Officers: the following had been nominated by Joy McWhirter and seconded by Heather Hugill and were approved without dissent:
Chairman: Bryan Brown; Vice Chairman: Kevin Senior;
Treasurer: Bruce Hunt; Secretary: Hester Hand

9. Election of the Executive Council: The following members, elected to serve until 2018, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Pat Bryden, Glynne Butt, Bobbie Nichols. They were proposed by Kevin Senior and seconded by Barbara Beach and there were no dissenters.

There were vacancies for 5 more Council member but no further nominations had been received.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.21 and was followed by an excellent presentation by Niall Phillips of Purcell Architects on ideas under consideration for the Enhancement of the Abbey Buildings.