

[The Henley Society](#)

[MINUTES](#)

[Annual General Meeting](#)

[Thursday 30 March 2023](#)

Shiplake Memorial Hall

Present:

Executive Committee: Geoff Lockett - Chairman, Julian Brookes - Vice-Chairman, Sandra Moon – Treasurer, Valerie Alasia, Catherine Notaras, Nora Scanlon

Members: C. Barnard, Dr. S. Bell, H. Bennett, R. Bennett, J. Bland, B. Bridges, E. Bridges, P. Britten, V. Britten, M. Brohm, J. Brookes, S. Brosnan, C. Caiger, J. Clinton, Dr J Copeland, K. Davies, M. Dickenson, G. Dodds, B. Evans, T. Evans, E. Facy, E. Gardiner, J. Goddard, N. Grundy, P. Johnston, V. Karruk, G.Lockett, J. Matelot, P. Matthews, D. McCoy, D. Miller, J. Nicholls, R. Pearce, M. Pearce, L. Plumb, A. Pontin, M. Porter, G. Probert, M. Probert, J. Probitts, R. Raymond, Cllr I. Reissman, K. Robertson, A. Ross, S. Sharp, P. Sly, C. Sutton, C. Symons, A. Washborn, A. Washborn, H. West Manning, A. Whitehead, D. Whitehead, J. Willis, T. Woods Ballard, H. Woods Ballard.

Apologies : S. Ainsley, Sir Martin Arbib, C. Augur, C. Bailey, D. Bailey, J. Busby, J. Buxton, I. Carlton, V. Carlton, T. Cowlshaw, M. Cresswell, A. Del Nevo, D. Dickie, S. Dickie, J. Douglas-Withers, Dr. T. Dudeney, D. Gordon, K. Grieve, K. Henry, W. Hoskins, T. Howell, C. Lewis, R. Lewis, Lady Hilary Prosser, Sir Ian Prosser, P. Stone, G. Symons, S. Tross Youle, P. Vahey, M. Vleugels, A. Waller, C. Whittaker, G. Wynn-Jones.

Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all 59 members who attended and announced that the evening would be in three parts – the guest speaker, the business of the day and a drinks reception to follow.

He then introduced the Speaker, Alison Foster, Project Director at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, who gave an interesting insight into progress being made towards a revision of the facilities at the hospital's various sites, or a complete new build. Alison also answered many member questions.

Prior to the business of the day the Chairman sought permission of members to add another item to the Agenda, which due to a clerical error had been inadvertently omitted (Election of a President), and members readily agreed.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting had been posted on the website and were proposed by Eroll Facy and seconded by David Whitehead, unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and he repeated his thanks to the hard-working Committee who, in addition to their normal duties, had overseen a successful 60th Anniversary year.

Treasurer's Report & Accounts

The Treasurer, Sandra Moon, presented the accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 which showed a surplus for the year and a healthy balance on hand and fielded one question from the floor regarding unspent moneys from the previous year. All such monies had now been dispersed with the exception of the £1600 reserved for the trial of the solar compactor litter bins due this Spring.

Geoffrey Probert proposed the Accounts for approval, seconded by Roger Bennett and unanimously supported.

Report on Planning Matters

The Planning report jointly produced by the Chairman and Vice Chairman had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Vice Chairman expanded on certain planning issues currently in progress – Premier Inn and the Smith's Hospital site at the far end of the Fair Mile

Appointment of Honorary Auditors

Sandra Moon, Treasurer, proposed the re-appointment of the Auditor, Brian Villiers, seconded by Basil Evans and unanimously supported. A letter of thanks would be sent to Mr. Villiers for his work on the 2022 accounts.

Election of Society President : (additional Agenda item)

The Chairman reported that the Society's President since 1994, HRH The Duke of Kent, had expressed a wish to stand down at the end of the Anniversary year, as he has done from many of his Patronages including as President of the All-England Club, Wimbledon. The Chairman proposed, and the Vice Chairman seconded, the appointment of Peta, Baroness Buscombe of Goring a long-standing Member to take his place. Baroness Buscombe is an English barrister, regulator and politician and sits as a Conservative Member in the House of Lords. She has held posts as CEO of the Advertising Association (2007/8), Chair of the Press Complaints Commission (2008/9) and is a former District Councillor for Nettlebed (1995/9). She was created a Life Peer in 1998 and has been front bench spokesman on Business Innovation and Skills, Culture Media and Sport, Education and Home Constitutional & Legal Affairs. Her appointment as President of the Society was accepted unanimously.

Election of Secretary : In accordance with the Constitution Karen Grieve stands down and having been properly proposed and seconded offers herself for re-election. Carried unanimously.

Election of Treasurer : In accordance with the Constitution Sandra Moon stands down and having been properly proposed and seconded offers herself for re-election. Carried unanimously.

Election of Executive Committee : in accordance with the Constitution the Executive Committee listed below all stand down and having been properly proposed and seconded, all, with the exception of David Whitehead who is retiring, offer themselves for re-election. Carried unanimously. (Valerie Alasia, Julian Brookes, Veronica Carlton, Dr Jenifer Copeland, Geoff Lockett, Catherine Notaras, Nora Scanlon and David Whitehead)

The Chairman explained that the new Committee were due to meet on Monday next when, in accordance with the Constitution they would elect from their number a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary.

Any Other Business

There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm