

# **THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY**

## **BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLANDS INSTITUTE ON Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 AT 10:30am**

#### **1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Roy Taylor, Jane Kendrick, Barbara Panvel, Jeremy Handy, Andrew Todd, Stephen Oliver, Jennie McGregor Smith, Alex Read, David Low and Carol McKeown.

#### **2.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

- 2.1 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting was proposed by Helene Pursey and seconded by Nina Hatch. All were in favour and the minutes were duly adopted.

#### **3.0 ANNUAL REPORTS**

- 3.1 **Chairman's Report** was distributed at the meeting and was presented by Stephen Hartland. He thanked Mary Worsfold who is standing down as Honorary Secretary. He also thanked Tim Bridges for his work as the Caseworker, paid for by the Mary Heath Trust.

He highlighted some of the positive casework outcomes during the year.

He also highlighted the money raised for the Burne Jones window, The Divine Beauty Project, at the Cathedral.

Social Media – The Group's following on twitter and Facebook continues to increase. The point was made that the under 30s do not generally join societies but use social media.

Conservation Award – The continuing Award acknowledges the positive repurposing of old buildings.

- 3.2 **Treasurer's Report** was distributed to the meeting and was presented by James Fletcher. There is a small deficit this year, due to larger donations to the Cathedral and the BMI and the costs of the Royal visit.

- 3.3 Adoption of the reports was proposed by Celia Potts and seconded by Barbara Shackley. Everyone was in favour.

#### **4.0 Mary Heath Trust Report**

Neither of the Local Trustees were present at the meeting, and Stephen Hartland summed up the existing situation.

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Approximately £150,000 is left which will continue to pay for the caseworker for some time.

The Victorian Society book, which was partly financed by the Trust, is still selling, and the proceeds are returned to the Trust. There are about 70 books left, and these will be publicised on Twitter and Facebook.

Historically the Trust has been managed by two local trustees and two national trustees, and Stephen Hartland will speak to Hilary Granger, the National Chairman, about the role of the national trustees. It might be better with just local trustees.

Andy Foster thanked the Mary Heath Trust for the donation to the West Midlands Pevsner.

### **5.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

5.1 Honorary Secretary – Alex Read proposed by Mary Worsfold and seconded by Eva Ling. Everyone was in favour.

### **6.0 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

6.1 Andy Foster, Nina Hatch, Jasna Jaksic and Eva Ling were re-elected, proposed by Joe Holyoak and seconded by Martin Haslett. Everyone was in favour.

### **7.0 THE CONSERVATION AWARD**

Stephen Hartland confirmed that the winner of the Conservation Award for 2019 was the Smethwick Council House.

### **8.0 CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming. In light of the Conservation Award he highlighted that the Society does not want buildings to stay as they are, new uses need to be found for them. They need to be reused, re-purposed and adapted.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting closed at 11:15 a.m.

Mary Worsfold  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2020