

BURFORD & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 16 February 2021, 7.00pm

Because of Covid restrictions the meeting was held over the internet, by Zoom

Peter Martin, the chairperson, and 70+ members, linked in

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Minutes: The minutes of the 2020 meeting had been circulated to members in advance. They were proposed to be accepted by Clendon Daukes and seconded by Veral Marshall. The minutes were accepted nem con. There were no matters arising.

3. The Chairperson's Report (circulated to members). "Little did we know last February that when we eagerly scurried into the Methodist Church for last year's much anticipated AGM with its annual fight for places on the committee, that the talk on the 'Sky Above Burford & District' would be our only formal meeting in 2020.

When the Covid-19 regulations firmly closed the Society's doors we optimistically developed alternative plans for socially distanced events, only to cancel them when the restrictions were reimposed. Despite the pestilence, 2020 has been a particularly busy and productive time. A small team of members made hundreds of masks for the community and for the Surgery to distribute. Whilst these were free of charge, donations were invited which enabled us to give over £1000 to the Burford Archive appeal fund. My thanks once again to the magnificent mask makers.

We have pioneered digital newsletters (our 32 have been generated and opened 24,000 times) and we originated 'Living in Burford & District' packs (detailing 30 local voluntary organisations) which we personally deliver to welcome all new residents. Our thanks to the Burford Festival Trustees for contributing towards their costs and Pamela Wilson who manages this free service. Our work continued considering planning applications and supporting other initiatives, including the campaigns to ban HGVs and retain the Visitor Information Centre (ongoing). My personal thanks go to everyone for their understanding and for the incredible executive team who have enabled us to continue to support the community, despite all.

4. Your Society continues to be well resourced. As shown in last year's accounts (enclosed) the credit balances on our bank accounts totalled £2045 and our deposit account with the Charities Official Investment Fund contained £5055. The deficit in our Income and Expenditure Statement is the result of paying for the first batch of Living in Burford packs, together with refunding members who had paid in 2019 for visits planned for 2020, but which had to be cancelled when the extent and severity of the Covid pandemic became apparent.

Although we were only able to hold one meeting during the year, with few exceptions, you nevertheless kindly paid your subscriptions, demonstrating your support for the work of the Society. I am very grateful. At the end of the year, we had 196 members.

Our financial year begins on January 1st each year, so subscriptions of £10 per head are now due.

Thank you if you have already paid by Standing Order or by other means. Cash or cheques, made out to the Burford and District Society, may be delivered to me. For a bank transfer, the Sort Code is 30-91-43, and the Account number is 00155011.

May I end by paying tribute to my predecessor John White for his kind co-operation during the transition period and in expressing my thanks to John Yeatman for examining our financial statement so efficiently.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by David Cohen and seconded by Nigel Barraclough and approved nem com..

5. Election of Executive Committee: The names of members who offered to join the executive committee were circulated to all members before the meeting. No one else offered to stand. Peter Martin (Chairperson), Cedric Reavley (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Kenneth Gray (Secretary), Lawrence Balbes (rep Fulbrook), Sylvia Demmery (rep. Asthall and District), Julia Hart, Anthony Hodgkison, Frances Sparkes, Michael Taubenheim, John White.

They were proposed by Reg Marshall and seconded by Dorrit Marshall. The meeting voted for the proposed committee members en bloc. They were duly elected nem con.

6. Any other business: There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

After the meeting Katherine Alcock spoke on "A Tour of Oxford"