



THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Monday 21st November 2016 At Chelsea Old Town Hall

APOLOGIES were received from the President, John Simpson CBE, and the Secretary, Jennifer Grossman.

In the absence of the President, the chair was taken at 6.30pm by the Chairman of Council, Damian Greenish.

The meeting was attended by more than 100 members.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM held on Monday 23rd November 2015 had been published in the Annual Report 2015, and were approved.

ELECTIONS

1. The following Members were elected to serve on the Council of the Society
Chris Lenon, Sir Paul Lever, Amalia Cebreiro
2. The following Members were re-elected to serve on the Council of the Society
Terence Bendixson, Fleur de Villiers, John Doncaster

CONSTITUTION

The Chairman proposed that a new Constitution be adopted to replace the existing Constitution in its entirety. He referred to the draft new Constitution and his explanatory notes which had been placed on the Society's website on 7th November. Copies were also available at the meeting.

He drew attention to the two major changes which were (a) to allow 30 members to request the Council to hold a consultation of all the members on any issue which falls within the Objects of the Society, and (b) to raise to 50 the number of members required in order request the Council to call a Special General Meeting.

The Chairman said that in his view there was no need to specify a quorum for General Meetings or Council Meetings but this could be considered and included in the Constitution at the next AGM if thought fit.

A question was asked on the inclusion of a new category for corporate members. The Chairman said that this was to encourage local businesses to participate in the work of the Society.

A question was asked on why 30 members, and not a percentage of total membership, had been specified for requesting a consultation. The Chairman explained that it was simpler to specify a number than for the Membership Secretary to have to certify the number of members as at a particular date.



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The Vice-chairman seconded the proposal to adopt the new Constitution, and it was adopted by the requisite two-thirds majority of Members present and voting.

ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer presented the Society's Accounts for 2015/16, which had been placed on the website, and of which copies were available at the meeting. He was questioned about the financing of the Royal Chelsea Exhibition.

He said that the Society currently had reserves of approx. £40,000, which in his opinion was not excessive.

He thanked Paul Nicholson for his service to the Society as interim Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman presented his Annual Report, which will be published in full on the website and in the Society's Annual Report which will be sent to all Members.

RETIREMENT OF CHAIRMAN

At the conclusion of his report the Chairman announced that he was retiring as Chairman, having served since 2011. He then introduced Dr. James Thompson, who had been appointed by the Council as its new chairman.

Dr. Thompson proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and presented him with a book token. He also announced that in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society, the Council had decided unanimously to appoint Damian Greenish as a Vice-President of the Society.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member said how much she enjoyed the social events and lectures which the Society provided for its Members. Dr. Thompson said that these would certainly continue.

Questions were asked on the following planning issues, which were answered by Michael Stephen, Chairman of the Planning Committee:

Affinity Sutton Estate - Ian Henderson, representing the Tenants' Association, thanked the Society for its support.

Boats at Chelsea Reach and Cadogan Pier

Article 4 Directions – with particular reference to Le Colombier restaurant in Dovehouse St.

The Queen's Head pub in Tryon Street.

The Society's position on all of these issues is on its website.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.55pm