



The Friends of Old Headington

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 8pm on Friday, 17 May 2019 at the Village Hall

Present: Nancy, Lady Kenny (President), Dr Sonia Brough (Vice-President), and approximately 60 members and friends.

Peter McCarter (Chairman) welcomed members and friends and chaired the meeting, with Howard Stanbury (Secretary) assisting.

- 1. Apologies for absence:* received from Jinny Blom, Angela Beatson-Wood, Ellen Derow, Sue Fenley, Dominic Hargreaves, Claire Harvey, Bridget and Derek Hope, Sally Richards & Jim Malcomson, Irene Schirmacher, Nell Slocock, Zoe Trill, Anthony and Celia de Vere, Joe and Lowell Winkelman, Cllr Roz Smith & Cllr Altaf Khan.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 18 May 2018*
The draft minutes were accepted as correct, and were unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes*
There were no matters arising from the minutes, the Chairman having asked members to raise only urgent matters, or those not otherwise on the agenda.
- 4. Treasurer's Report*
The Treasurer (Hugh Ferris) presented the accounts for the year ending 31.12.2018.

Summarised:
 - Income at £3,016 slightly down on the previous year (-9%)
 - Annual subscription income was £805 (down from £855 in 2017) and
 - Income from Open Gardens £1,260 (£1,125 in 2017)
 - Expenditure at £838 was substantially lower (£2,417 in 2017) because of exceptional items in the previous year
 - There was surplus for the year of £2,178
 - The balance sheet indicated that our current assets and reserves totalled £17,740 on 31/12/2017, up from £15,562 in the previous year.
- 5. Adoption of the Annual Accounts for 2018*
The accounts were adopted unanimously.

6. *Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts*

The Treasurer thanked Adrian Williams for his examination of the accounts. The Chairman proposed that he be appointed for 2019. This was seconded and approved *nem. con.*

7. *Chairman's Report*

Summary points:

- The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM. This was a momentous year for the Friends – which was celebrating its diamond anniversary this year. A party was planned in August to celebrate this.
- He began his report by reminding members of the purpose of The Friends, as stated in our constitution, i.e. ‘...to preserve the rural amenities and village charm of Old Headington and to seek to prevent the village succumbing to urban pressures. It shall work actively to encourage and foster the preservation of the character of the village. At the same time, acknowledging that change is ever with us, the charity seeks to ensure, when change is being considered, that if made, it is effected only in a sympathetic fashion.....’.
- Paid-up Membership in 2018 was 196 (which included 42 Life members). (Figures for 2017 were 209 and 44, respectively.)
- During the year there had been 8 planning applications in the Conservation Area. The Trustees commented on 4 of these (1 in favour, 3 against. In addition, Trustees had commented on the South Oxfordshire District Local Plan, which with its plans for development of 1,100 houses on Land North of Bayswater Brook has significant implications for Old Headington in terms of the likelihood of increased traffic; and the Oxford City Local Plan which still includes potential development on land at Ruskin Field, north of the college. We also mounted a (failed) attempt to save / replace the lime trees on Old High Street, which were felled, on safety grounds, by the City Council.
- Another successful Open Gardens had taken place on 1 July. The weather was warm and sunny and we welcomed some 250 visitors to the Village, raising approximately £1,100 (net) for FOH funds. As always, the Trustees are grateful to Jenny Butler who organises this event on our behalf, together with those who opened their gardens, ran and supplied the plant stall and generally helped out.
- The winter meeting, held on 30 November was much enjoyed by a capacity audience: Prof William Whyte (Vice president, St John's College, chairman of the Oxford Preservation Trust and the Oxford Historical Society and assistant curate in the parish of Wolvercote and Wytham, *inter alia*) gave an illuminating and surprisingly humorous talk (given the subject matter) entitled ‘Unlocking the church: The lost secrets of Victorian sacred space’.
- In conclusion, the Chair thanked all the Trustees for their work during the year, with special thanks to Howard Stanbury, who as Secretary, keeps the Chairman in order and does much of the work collating and submitting comments on planning applications.

8. *Enhancement Award 2019*

The Chairman announced that no nominations had been received and that the Trustees had not themselves put forward any proposals, and so there was no Enhancement Award for 2019.

9. *Election of Committee Members*

Four nominations had been received, all of whom were current trustees and having come to the end of their terms of office, were willing to be re-elected. The following were duly elected en bloc:

- Jinny Blom, Proposer Howard Stanbury, Secunder Nelly Stanbury
- Hugh Ferris, Proposer Adrian Williams, Secunder Jill Freston
- Julie Harrod, Proposer Diana Tickell, Secunder Zoe Traill
- Howard Stanbury, Proposer Alison Soskice, Secunder Amanda Robertson

10. Any other business

There being no other business, the formal part of the meeting closed, and members enjoyed refreshments and informal discussion.