

THE FRIENDS OF WINCHELSEA CHURCH
(Registered Charity No. 249108)

MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS
HELD ON SATURDAY 20th MAY 2017 AT 10.30 AM
IN ST THOMAS' CHURCH WINCHELSEA

Present:

Cynthia Feast (President)
John Jessup (in the Chair)
Stephen King (Hon Treasurer)
Ann Dawson (Hon Secretary)

A further 29 people were present, including Council Members and Members of the Friends.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced and welcomed Mayor Cynthia Feast who will be President in the absence of a Rector. The President asked the Chairman to chair the meeting.

1. **Apologies** had been received from Dr and Mrs McFadyean, Dr and Mrs Alexander, Mrs Sheila Horobin, Mrs Susan Wood.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 21st May 2016:**
The Minutes were signed as correct. Proposed Roger Tidyman
Seconded Paul Anderson AGREED
3. **Matters Arising:**
There were none.
4. **Election of Treasurer, Report and Approval of Accounts:**
 - i) Stephen King being willing to stand again was duly re-elected.
Proposed Pamela Jefferies Seconded John Rodley AGREED
 - ii) The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his help and hard work during the year.
 - iii) The Treasurer's Report had been circulated. The Treasurer mentioned the following key points:
 - a) Membership of the Friends has almost doubled to 102 members and with the annual membership fee of £10 this brings in a useful £1000 pa towards meeting our prime objective of helping to fund repairs to the fabric of the church.
 - b) Income from donations and investments was healthy at £19,663. less than the previous year (2015) when we had the grand summer opera event to raise funds for repairs to the church roof.
 - c) We continue to pay the PCC £1400 per month for recurring church maintenance.
 - d) It is pleasing to report that our gain on investments was £64,000. This means that our total funds, including cash at the bank, were £553,000.

The adoption of the accounts was Proposed by Angela Hill Seconded by Tessa Potts.
AGREED
5. **Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2017/18:**
Gibbons, Mannington and Phipps are happy to continue. Stephen Turner proposed

that we stay with them through 2017 Seconded by John Spencer

AGREED

6. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY:**

Ann Dawson had expressed a wish to stand down, and as a replacement has been found, the handover will take place shortly. AGREED

7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

It had been a busy but not hectic year, July, August and September were taken up with discussions on the corporate structure as there had been a suggestion that we should become a Company Limited by Guarantee in order to protect the Trustees from being exposed to possible personal liability. According to our professional advisors such a move could involve the dissolution of the Friends. After much negotiation by John McKendrick, and latterly John Rodley with the Charity Commissioners it was finally agreed that the Friends is rightly governed by the 2015 Constitution.

The Chairman reported that during the year the Friends had paid for the lighting of the Christmas tree, extensive repairs to the tapestry and other items.

The money raised from the Opera was not immediately utilised as John Rodley had been successful in getting a grant from the newly formed Government Fund for repair of church roofs. However, demands for funds for fabric repairs are still pretty incessant. We are faced with a possible six figure expenditure on the organ.

A poster and publicity material is now located permanently in the Church.

8. **THE CONSTITUTION:**

John Rodley referred the meeting to paragraph 8 of the 2016 AGM, which said that matters were still outstanding regarding the Constitution. However after the extensive negotiations with the Charity Commissioners referred to in the Chairman's report all matters have now been agreed with the Charity Commission and the Friends is rightly governed by the terms of the 2015 Constitution. The Council concluded that this agreed Constitution met its needs and there was no longer a necessity to convert to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

9. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL:**

Jenny Chishick had been co-opted at an earlier meeting and John Spencer has agreed to stand. It was Proposed by Deborah Rodley that the Council be elected en bloc, Seconded by Angela Hill.

AGREED

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no notified business. John Rodley thanked the Council on behalf of the PCC for their continued support.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Saturday 19 May 2018.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am

Chairman

Date