



HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

Registered Charity 238177

Item 2 - MINUTES OF THE 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at 7.15 pm on 28th May 2024 in the Town Hall, High Street, Hythe.

Chairman for the meeting, Roger Neaves, welcomed the Right Worshipful Mayor Hythe, Cllr Penny Graham, and members to the meeting. The list of those attending, 37 members, is attached to the signed minutes.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Jill Ayling and Michael Tubman.
 2. **Minutes of AGM on 23rd May 2023:** These had been previously circulated, placed on the website and a printed copy was provided to all those attending. The minutes were unanimously approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman. A copy is available on the AGM page of www.hythecivicsociety.org
 3. **Matters Arising from the 2023 Annual Meeting:** There were none from the Executive Committee.
 4. **Forward Plan to 2026/2027 – To receive and adopt the attached document:** The accompanying notes refers to a rolling forward plan to guide the activities of the Society. These had been previously circulated, placed on the website and a printed copy was provided to all those attending. Paul Naylor explained that the submitted 3 year forward plan was recommended by the Executive Committee to the meeting. It reflected current and planned ongoing activities but also new areas of work. The forward plan 2024-2027 and its amendment was unanimously approved by the meeting.
 5. **Annual Reports and Accounts for the 2023/24 Year:** These had been previously circulated, placed on the website and a printed copy was provided to all those attending. Alan Joyce, Hon Treasurer, spoke to the examined accounts. Our balance sheet for the year shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £3,305.25. In his explanation of the accounts Alan Joyce referred to the opening on 28 December 2023 of a 3 month bond with the United Trust Bank for £5,000 as interest rates were rising. The increased interest will be reflected in the 2024/2025 accounts. Paul Naylor spoke to the remainder of the annual report. The Chairman proposed approval of the annual report and examined accounts for the 2023/24 year. Sally Chesters seconded the proposal. The annual report and examined accounts were unanimously approved. A copy is available on the AGM page of www.hythecivicsociety.org
- 5a). The Chairman asked Paul Naylor to speak about the proposed amendments to the constitution and notes regarding memberships, officers and executive committee. To address various circumstances to ensure the Constitution remains up-to-date and effective, the Executive Committee proposes amendments to a number of Clauses as follows:

Life Memberships - The Society may at an AGM or SGM confer on a member the honour of Honorary Life Membership in recognition of outstanding services rendered to the Society as recommended by the Committee. Consideration for Honorary Life Membership may, but not exclusively include an existing or former President, Vice President, Officer of the Society or a Committee Member who has given 10 years or more active support to the Society in such a role. Further, a spouse or a partner of a deceased Life Member may be awarded honorary Life Membership.

Special Honorary Memberships - The Executive Committee may confer a special honorary membership for a period the Committee deems appropriate to a donor of a non monetary item of significant local importance or to a person who has provided significant voluntary services to the Society, subject to any such decisions being announced to the membership.

Life Members and Special Honorary Members do not pay annual subscriptions: They are entitled to receive Newsletters, attend Society Talks and Events on the same basis as Society Members. Life Members may attend, raise motions and vote at annual or special general meetings. As a complimentary title, Special Honorary Members may attend annual or special meetings but may not vote.

Clause 6 – Officers (specifically in relation to the President and Vice Presidents):To permit the Executive to propose a President or Vice President(s) to take a full role in the Committee where such an appointment is considered to be in the best interests of the Society.

Clause 7 – Executive Committee: The...President and Vice Presidents, if appointed, may attend and speak at committee meetings, but may not vote unless a President or Vice President has been appointed as a member of the Committee.

Clause 13 – Amendments: No amendment shall be made to Clause 2 (Objects), Clause 15 (Winding up) or this Clause (13) until the approval, in writing, of the Charity Commission and any other regulated amendment.

5b). The proposed amendments and the proposals for awards of life memberships (Janine Umbers, Crispin Davies, Betty Black and Anne Petrie) and special honorary memberships (David and Joan Horton, Roy Moore, Eric Hartland, John Adams, Susan and Michael Parfitt, and Susie Warran-Smith) were unanimously approved. A copy is available on the AGM page of www.hythecivicsociety.org

6. **Elections for the 2024/25 year:**

Patron: The position remains vacant.

President: The Committee was saddened to learn of the passing of its President, Mike Umbers-Retired Lt. Colonel and a longstanding Society member and prominent supporter of the Hythe community. The Executive Committee had proposed Roger Neaves as President for 2024/25. This was put to the vote and unanimously approved. Roger Neaves thanked the meeting for his election.

Vice President: The Chairman announced that the Executive Committee had nominated Crispin Davies and Betty Black as Vice Presidents, and for Crispin to continue to serve on the Committee. This was agreed by the meeting.

Chairman: The Executive Committee had proposed Paul Naylor to continue as Chairman for 2024/25. This was put to the vote and unanimously approved. Paul Naylor thanked the meeting for his election.

Vice Chairman: Keith Miles had been nominated and his name was unanimously approved.

Hon Treasurer: Alan Joyce had been nominated and his name was unanimously approved.

Hon Secretary: Robin Bhar had been nominated and his name was unanimously approved.

7. **Election of the Executive Committee:** The following Society members had been nominated as members of the Executive Committee for the forthcoming year - Jill Ayling, Sally Chesters, Crispin Davies, Mary Hunter, Keith Miles, Kim Murton, Roger Neaves, Jo Scott and Michael Tubman. The meeting agreed unanimously to those names. Bob Bruce (HCS webmaster) is to stand down from attending the Committee but will continue to look after and develop the Society's website.

8. **Any Other Business:** The Chairman announced that no business from members had been received by the Hon Secretary and closed the formal part of the meeting.

9. **Talk by Cllr Penny Graham:** Councillor Penny Graham, The Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe, gave a short talk about her reflections on Hythe and plans for her Mayoral Year. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Sally Chesters.

Roger Neaves, President and Chairman for the Meeting

28May 2024