

THE MARLOW SOCIETY
Registered Charity 262803
Minutes of 59th Annual General Meeting

Present

Sir Keith Stuart (President), Mr Martin Blunkell (Chairman), Mr Graham Fletcher (Hon. Treasurer), Mr George Lawrence (Hon. Secretary) and a quorum of around fifty other Members of the Society met in Liston Main Hall at 8:00pm on Thursday 9th May 2019.

1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks

Martin Blunkell welcomed Members to the 59th AGM. After the official business, Members would have further opportunity for refreshments and to talk informally with the Society's executive.

The President of the Society Sir Keith Stuart was invited by the Chairman to take the chair for the formal business of AGM.

2 - Apologies

Apologies had been received by Hon Secretary from: Sue Arnold, Helen and Barry Belasco, Alex Collingwood, Peter and Jo Diplock, John and Ann Evans, Dr and Mrs Grattan, Guy and Sarah Greenhaus, Shiela Hyde, Liz Fenley, Mike Pankhurst, Bob and Jane Savidge.

3 - Minutes of 58th AGM

The unadopted minutes of the 2018 AGM had been posted in the room before the meeting and had been available on the website. No changes were suggested from the floor and the meeting was pleased to adopt the minutes as a correct record.

4 - Matters arising

The Executive Committee had notified no outstanding matters to raise and none were raised from the floor.

5 - Executive Committee's Report

The President noted that a report from the Committee's Chairman had been published in each of the three Newsletters since the last AGM, and that these along with the Trustees' Report for 2018-19 in the current edition fulfilled the reporting requirements of AGM.

The meeting was pleased to unanimously adopt the Report.

6 - Annual Statement of Accounts

Hon Treasurer, Graham Fletcher, reported on the Society's Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018. Copies of the summary accounts had been distributed in the hall with the meeting agenda.

Hon Treasurer noted that as the Society's gross income is less than £25,000 the Charities Act does not require an independent examination. However, as in previous years, Executive Committee had chosen to undertake the voluntary review. This review had kindly been overseen by Elizabeth Horton at Seymour Taylor Audit Limited. After

Executive Committee approval, the Chairman and Hon Treasurer had signed-off the Accounts on 9th May 2019.

The results for 2018 show that total receipts for the year amounted to £5529. The two main components of this were subscription receipts of £3277, which were at a twelve year high and a back-dated Gift Aid refund of £1566.

Payments of £3262 included Committee costs at £1247 and Newsletter production and distribution cost of £581. Website costs were again nil thanks to the continued support of Kelvin Warne.

On behalf of the Members of the Society, the Chairman will write to Elizabeth Horton to express our thanks to her for carrying out the examination of the accounting records.

The President proposed that the accounts be accepted. The meeting was pleased to agree this proposal.

7 - Election of Officers of the Society

The President advised that the three Officers of the Society had offered themselves for re-election:

Martin BLUNKELL Chairman
George LAWRENCE Hon Secretary
Graham FLETCHER Honorary Treasurer

No other nominations had been received. The meeting was pleased to confirm these Officers.

8 – Election of an Executive Committee

The following seven members of the Society have been nominated and have indicated their willingness to serve on Executive Committee and so join unopposed for the next year:

Helen BELASCO
Carole HOLME
Ray ISTED
Mike OVERALL
Richard PARKER
Keith RAY
Geoff WOOD

The meeting was pleased to confirm these Committee members.

9 – Appointment of Independent Examiner

Messrs Seymour Taylor of High Wycombe have indicated willingness to continue as Independent Examiners of the Society's accounts. The work is very kindly carried out on a

pro bono basis for the Society.

Hon Secretary proposed that Seymour Taylor be invited to examine the 2019 accounts. The meeting was pleased to confirm the proposal.

Address by the President

The President noted that the Society, led by the executive team, had tackled a plethora of issues during the year.

Particular successes had been in seeing-off County's proposed parking charges in the High Street. This had involved exemplary cooperation with Councillor Jocelyn Towns and with Marlow's Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

The Society had been instrumental in sustaining pressure on Transport for Bucks for the restoration of the obelisk in Market Square, which has been led by Martin Blunkell and others. Of course there is plenty for the Society still to do!

Membership had gradually increased over the year and now stands at over 750.

The President wished to recognise several personal contributions to the success of the Society : Liz Fenley and her Newsletter delivery team; Geoff Wood for organisation of the Walks programme and for leading on Heritage Open Day 2018; Helen Belasco and Enid Briggs for catering the Garden Party, with particular thanks to Barrie Lea for the use of his garden; Jan Caddie and Janet Smith for their expert contributions to the work of the Local History Group.

The Chairman thanked the President for chairing the formal AGM and after leading from the platform a discussion session which included recent planning matters, the work of the Local History Group and the Town's environment, he suggested that Members join the new Committee for refreshments.

Martin Blunkell
Chairman

George Lawrence
Hon Secretary