

Society of Friends of St.John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Minutes of the AGM held at 14:30 on Sunday 27th November, 2016 in the Discovery Centre, Cathedral of St.John

1 Introduction:

Sarah Davis welcomed about 20 members and guests. Fr.Dominic Golding opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for absence: Lesley Jones

2 Previous minutes: [These had been published on the website in September 2015]

Minutes of the AGM held on the 12th September 2015 were approved.

Matters arising: None

3 Election of the committee:

3.1 Given the fact that there had been a steep decline in the number of Friends participating in the social events, the cost and the effort required to organise them had become unsustainable. Therefore, the committee had decided to cancel the preparations for the 2017 Annual Gathering, and to reschedule the 2016 AGM to coincide with the celebration of the beginning of Advent, Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

3.2 It was also proposed to reduce the size of the committee accordingly. The following were re-elected to serve another year:

Sarah Davis	Chairman
Lesley Jones	Treasurer
Gabriel Somorjay	Secretary

3.3 The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members, Mr.D-J.Buckland, Mrs.L.Kroon, Mrs.M.Parker, Mr.D.Shaw and Mr.J.Wingfield, and asked the Friends to remember Dr.R.Horscroft who had died earlier in the year, in their prayers.

3.4 The Chairman reminded the meeting that her term in office would be coming to an end in November 2017 and that she would not be standing for re-election.

4 Dean's report:

Canon Dominic gave a lively PowerPoint presentation on the whole range of activities that had taken place in the Cathedral during 2016. What 'happens' here is what gives meaning to the work and the participation of the Friends. The Dean went on to describe the physical work that had been carried out over the past year - and the Friends contribution to it - and to outline what challenges were to be faced in 2017.

5 Chairman's report:

5.1 Having outlined the efforts that had been made by the Dean and the committee to organise events that would appeal to the Friends, the Chairman explained in greater detail how the falling support over recent years had convinced the committee that the social functions had become unsustainable. The committee had therefore decided it was more important to concentrate on the main purpose of the Society of Friends, which was to contribute to and assist in the enhancement of the Cathedral.

5.2 Various options to raise the awareness of the Friends in the diocese were explored; so too the idea of promoting the Society at Confirmation when the Cathedral becomes host to all the parishes in the diocese.

5.3 The proposals:

- to organise social events within sustainable limits was approved unanimously.
- to hold the AGM on the first Sunday of Advent was also approved unanimously.

6 Membership secretary's report:

6.1 GS reported that last year's total of 195 members had fallen to 145. Some members had died, others felt that due to ill health they were no longer able to take an active part in the affairs of the Friends, and yet others had failed to renew their subscriptions.

6.2 No questions were raised, and the report was approved.

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7 Treasurer's report:

- 7.1 In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented the "Financial Statement for the year ending 31 August 2016", a copy of which was distributed to all those attending.
- 7.2 The current balance indicates that the scope for new projects in the near future will be limited.
- 7.3 The membership was reminded that some subscriptions were still outstanding and the renewal date for membership is 1 October 2016, the cost being £20 pa for single members and £30 pa for couples.
- 7.4 The Financial Statement 2016 was approved.

8 Any other business: The chairman invited comments from the meeting.

- 8.1 The Dean announced that the Cathedral website had been re-designed and would be going live before Christmas.
- 8.2 The Dean also invited the Friends to contribute ideas for improving / enhancing the Cathedral.

9 Next Annual General meeting:

14:30 on the **first Sunday of Advent 2017** in the Discovery Centre, St.John's Cathedral.

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