



## CHESTER SOCIETY FOR LANDSCAPE HISTORY

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD at 7.15pm on 30 JANUARY 2017 at the GROSVENOR MUSEUM, CHESTER

1. **Apologies for absence**

Elizabeth Bott, Ray & Margaret Jones, Barbara Moth, Bob & Katy Percival, Jean Thomason, Julian Tweed & Ruth Hockney, Beverley & Clive Webber.

2. **Minutes of previous AGM**

A motion to accept the minutes was proposed by Monty Cordwell, seconded by Mike Kennerley and carried without opposition.

3. **Matters arising**

None.

4. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman noted that 2016 had been one of the Society's most successful years yet, with a record number of attendances at lectures, a variety of field visits, a very successful Discovery Day, a residential visit to the Derwent Valley, an autumn conference, a substantial publication, and a river cruise on a warm October afternoon to celebrate the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

She thanked all the members of the planning team, but especially Julie Smalley who had organised the Discovery Day and taken on the role of Editor of the Society's Bulletin. She presented Julie with a small token of thanks from the Society. She also thanked our extra helpers: Gillian Langrick on the front desk at lectures, Bob & Katy Percival serving tea and coffee after lectures, and all those who step forward to help at special events, especially the spouses of team members: Pamela Headon, Heather White, Mark Smalley & Paul Varey. All our activities were true team efforts.

She went on to pay particular thanks to Mike Headon, who like the Chairman herself was stepping down from the planning team after decades during which he had made an enormous contribution to the Society. He would surely be missed. She then presented Mike with a token of the Society's appreciation.

All things must change and she was sure that the Society would continue to grow and thrive under the new Chairman and planning team with the continued support of the members. Lectures, field visits, and the Bulletin – the three activities identified as most important by the members – would continue to grow and thrive. She also thanked Vanessa Greatorex who had stepped in to save the Society's library by volunteering to act as Librarian.

In summary, 2016 was another successful year, and the Society should look forward to many more.

5. **Treasurer's accounts**

The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts for the year from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 and noted that the Society had finished the year with a surplus of £984.02. The Society's reserves remained very healthy at £7,586.60. The Hon. Treasurer drew the members' attention to the Notes to the Accounts.

A motion to accept the Hon. Treasurer's accounts was proposed by David George, seconded by Peter Roberts and carried without opposition.

6. **Election of Chairman**

The President then took the chair. He echoed the Chairman's remarks concerning the Society and the planning team, particularly the retiring members, and added the membership's heartfelt thanks to her as Chair for all that she had done for the Society. She had been a member of the planning team since 2001 and Chairman since 2009. During her Chairmanship, the Society had blossomed and diversified. He had taken great pleasure in supervising Sharon's PhD and co-editing two of the Society's more substantial publications with her. He then presented her with a token of the Society's appreciation.

A motion to elect Diane Johnson as Chairman was proposed by Harry Bradley, seconded by Monty Cordwell and carried without opposition or other nominations.

7. **Election of committee/planning team**

The following planning team members were willing to stand for re-election: Gwilym Hughes, Christine Robinson, Julie Smalley and Jean Thomason. A motion to re-elect them en bloc was proposed by Mike Taylor, seconded by Jan Hore and carried without opposition.

David Savage was proposed by Mike Johnson; seconded by Frank Mawdsley; carried without opposition.

Brian Higgins was proposed by Mike Headon; seconded by Maggie Taylor; carried without opposition.

8. **Appointment of auditor**

The Chairman thanked Michael Johnson for acting as Hon. Auditor for the past years.

The Chairman noted that Julian Tweed had agreed to be appointed as Hon. Auditor. A motion to appoint Julian Tweed as Hon. Auditor for next year was proposed by Monty Cordwell, seconded by Jennifer Kennerley and carried without opposition.

9. **The future of the CSLH library**

The Chairman echoed the thanks already expressed to Vanessa Greatorex for volunteering to act as Librarian.

10. **Any other business**

None.

**Address**

After the AGM, David Mitchell gave a well-received lecture on *Soundscapes of English Towns*.