

Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of Malvern Civic Society; Reg Charity no. 1117906

Held at the Eden Centre, Grovewood Road, Malvern WR14 1GD on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 7.00 pm.

1. Attendees and Apologies.

Present:

Gillian Ackland, Elizabeth Adlam, Mary Arrowsmith, Katharine Barber, Roy Barber, Pam Bevan, Norma Braddock, Wayne Braddock, Walter Brooks, Alan Bull, Rob Carrington, Eileen Clement, Peter Clement, Jenny Cowpe, Alan Cowpe, Tiggy Cunningham, Pat Cutler, Jenny Drummond, Susan Druce, Barbara Dymock, Carole Elkins, John Elkins, Carole Entwistle, David Entwistle, Rose Fenn, Colin Fenn, Sheila Frost, Val Greenwood, Roger Hall-Jones, Mary Harcup, Clive Hooper, David Hughes, Mary-Rose Hughes, Rachel Huntley, Andrew Huntley, Bian Iles, Jenny Jackson, Rosie Jones, J Kelly, S Kelly, Fraser McNeil-Watson, Rosemary McNeil-Watson, Chris Martyn, Janet Megson, Greville Megson, Diana Morgan, Roger Morgan, Jackie Oakey, Ann Oldfield, Laurie Oldfield, Brian Palmer, Jeanne Palmer, Ann Peach, Jan Pearce, Denise Preston, Michael Pritchard, Linda Scott, David Street, Cherry Sprackling, Roger Sutton, Bob Tilley, Elaine Tomlinson, Geoff Tomlinson, Mary Valpy, Elizabeth Vaughan, Tracey Waite, Mike Waite (visitor), Sheila Willett, David Woodward, Jeffrey Worth, Mike Yolland, Mark Young. (71).

Apologies for absence:

Yvonne Burraston, Vanessa Chesterton, Jan Condon, Joan Edwards, Mary Giles, Colin Hill, Janet Lawton, Maggie St. John, R Savege, Patricia Sweetman, James Sweetman, Jenny Woodward. (12)

2. Minutes of the 64th AGM

The minutes from the 64th AGM held on 10 November 2023 were proposed by Clive Hooper and seconded by David Entwistle and approved without amendment.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Chairman's report.

Michael Pritchard (MP)

A difficult year but now on track again. He thanked David Ebsworth, Roger Sutton, Rose Fenn, Stephen Goodenough, Sandra Hinton for all their help during the past year. The Society has gained many new members and has new projects. MP stressed the Society's need for a Secretary and asked for assistance. He also reiterated the MCS Mission Statement and pointed to the statement on the visual display - to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit; to educate the public in the geography history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit; to secure the preservation protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit).

He also thanked those who have organised the social events, talks, visits, walks, social gatherings, which are so enjoyable and for dealing with the archives.

Chairman's report cont'd

- **Membership report.**

Jackie Oakey reported that in 2024, there were 57 new members, 8 corporate members and 407 paid members. 32% of members paid subscriptions online for 2025. She asked for volunteers to help as welcomers on the desk at meetings and also at the RHS Spring Show stand at the 3 Counties Showground.

- **Community benefits.**

Michael Pritchard reported on the Society's involvement in a variety of projects in Malvern in 2024 and the coming year. These are: The campaign to save the former Malvern Arts College as a building for educational /community use. The building is to be repurposed as a school for children with special educational needs. The advantage is the Malvern children with special needs can be educated in Malvern rather than elsewhere; Financial support for the refurbishment of the Theatre of Small Convenience (2025); Financial support the restoration of the Donkey Shed in Haphey Valley (2024); Financial support for a sensory garden in the grounds of the Malvern Community hospital (2025); Organisation of a Schools photographic competition and exhibition in Church Walk (2025); Presentation of MCS blue plaques – The Lees (2024), William Noyce (2025), Dennis Neale (2025); Civic Award scheme plaque 2024 – presented to Great Malvern Railway Station (2024); Town Walks.

- **Members' benefits.**

Diary of events (monthly meetings as well as outings); Monthly social events – in 2024 these took place at a variety of venues in Malvern on different days of the week offering lunch/brunch/ breakfast or coffee. Booking is via Ticketsource because numbers are limited to around 10. In 2024, there were some bigger social events with a Midsummer tea party hosted by Alan & Jenny Cowpe and a Christmas dinner at the Malvern Golf Club; Bandstand. This is our house magazine.

5. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts.

Rob Carrington (RC)

- The year end accounts cover a 15 month period to 31 December 2024 compared to a 12 month period for the comparative period in 2023. This adjustment is necessary because the financial year end of the Society has changed to 31 December to accord with membership subscription period which is also the calendar year. This means that the 'Total 2024' does not reflect like for like figures with the 'Total 2023' shown on the financial statement.
- The statement of receipts and payments represents the record of all receipts and payments from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024 There was a surplus of £6010.85 in the 15 months to 31 December 2024, compared with a deficit of £4326.25 in the previous year.
- As at 31 December 2024, cash of £13,666.84 was held in the current accounts and cash of £ 27,298.62 was held in the savings account.
- Certain amounts within the comparative figures for 2023 have been re-presented to match current presentation.
- These accounts are prepared on a cash basis. At the year end, subscription income of £405.04, which was held in our PayPal account, has not been included in the year end figures as it was not considered a cash receipt.

Treasurer's report and approval of accounts. cont'd

- The receipts for Midsummer Malvern include grants of £500 and £470 from the District Council and the Town Council respectively to help fund the Sunday in the Park event.
- The accounts were reviewed David Woodward, as an independent scrutineer.
- Questions: Walter Brooks said that he had concerns about the presentation of the statement of receipts and payments. The Restricted Funds represent money which does not belong to the Society and that this money must be accounted for separately. RC replied that the Restricted Funds and the Unrestricted Funds are recorded separately in the receipts & payments columns. In addition, there is a separate reconciliation of the Restricted Funds on the second page of the statement of receipts & payments.

The accounts were approved by the members with one abstention.

6,7 & 8. Election of Officers, Executive Committee members and Vice Presidents.

The names of those standing for office or the Executive Committee are:

Officers: Chairman (Michael Pritchard), President (Katharine Barber), Treasurer (Rob Carrington): (Sits vac, Secretary, Vice Chair). The officers are also Trustees of the Society

Executive Committee: Returning -Membership Secretary (Jackie Oakey), Communications (Alan Cowpe), Events (Jenny Cowpe), Planning (David Entwistle), Plaques (Brian Iles), Country Walks (Christopher Barnett), New - Talks (Elaine Tomlinson), David Woodward.

There were 3 new elected members – Elaine Tomlinson, Christopher Barnett and David Woodward.

The Executive Committee are also Trustees of the Society.

Vice Presidents: Roger Hall-Jones, Andrew Huntley, Roger Sutton, Clive Hooper.
(The Vice Presidents are honorary and have non-voting roles).

All the above were shown on the visual display and were elected en bloc by the members.

9. Appointment of a Scrutineer.

There was no appointment of a Scrutineer. David Woodward who acted as Scrutineer is no longer eligible because he has been elected to be a member of the Executive Committee.

10. Any other business.

None. The AGM concluded at around 7.30 pm.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Jackie Harris about the work of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT). England has lost 90 % of wetlands in the last 300 years. It is now a restoration charity not a conservation charity. The purpose of the trust is to restore, to create and manage wetlands. This provides a habitat for wetland animals and birds. There are 10 visitor sites in England as well as projects in Cambodia and Madagascar.