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**Gosport Society**

**Registered as Charity No. 289942**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Gosport Society**

**held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th June 2022**

**at Berkeley Hall, HQ of the Gosport Sea Cadets**

**Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions by The Chairman**.

Chairman, Louis Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting, extending a special welcome to Cllr. Martin Pepper, Deputy Mayor of Gosport representing Cllr. Jamie Hutchison President of the Gosport Society by virtue of his position as Mayor, who had a previous engagement.

**Item 2 – Apologies.** Mr A. & Mrs N. Knight, Cllr. Kevin Casey, Mr G. & Mrs S. Blower, Ms T Rhodes, Mrs S Stevens

**Present:** Cllr. Martin Pepper, Deputy Mayor of Gosport,Mr. Louis Murray, Mr. Malcolm Stevens, Mr. Brian Mansbridge, .

**Item 3 – Minutes of the Virtual AGM Meeting held on 9th June 2020 (circulated).**

3.1 Louis Murray requested approval of the Minutes as an accurate record. Proposed by Jude Feeney, seconded by Richard Harrison.

**Item 4 – Matters Arising.** None

**Item 5 – Chair Annual Report 21/22 (tabled and circulated).**

5.1 Louis Murray presented his sixth and final report before standing down as Chair of the Society.

5.2 The previous year as the one before had been conflicted by the regulations concerning Covid 19. Executive Committee meetings were held via Zoom or face-to-face depending on the situation at the time. The Society finally re-opened to the membership in March 22 with Chairman’s talk and finger buffet. The talk programme re-commenced in May with a well-researched talk on the Fort Blockhouse sea defences by Chris Donnithorne.

5.3 Despite Covid the Society manage to carry out all its functions including representation on various external groups. This included the Planning Sub-Committee’s vital work in scrutiny of planning applications submitted to GBC for developments in the conservation areas.

5.4 In December, the committee held a successful Away Day to review the Society’s purposes and objectives. Arising from this event are a number of working proposals including a revised format for the newsletter, work on producing a reference document of local groups and agencies that have a stake in the social and cultural welfare of the area, and proposal for a review of the Gosport Society Constitution.

5.5 The year has been productive in terms of its publications with the well-received “20 Historic Walks in and around Gosport and Fareham” published Autumn 2021 and sold out within 3 months. A second edition is possible. The flagship project for the Housing Action Zone (HAZ) “Gosport: Conservation and Heritage” is in production with publication date hopefully brought forward from April 23 to Christmas 22.

5.6 Louis concluded his report by reflecting on his time as Chairman and thanking the members of the committee for their support. He ended in the words of Science Officer Spock of Star Trek: May the Gosport Society “Live long and prosper”

**Item 6 – Honorary Treasurer’s Report to the Gosport Society’s AGM 21/22 (tabled and circulated).**

6.1 Brian Mansbridge presented his report and accounts for 2021-22, copies of which were circulated prior to meeting.

6.2 The Society remains financially sound and meets all the provisions required by the Charity Commission. Finances have recovered somewhat from the Covid lockdown year. Total income for 2021-22 was £2,356.00 and total expenditure £579.00. The Society’s total financial assets as of 31 March 2022 was £13,029.

6.3 Membership renewals have not fully recovered from the 2019-20 level and ways of attracting new members, especially working members was considered at the Away Day.

6.4 The 50th Anniversary publications have resulted in a steady income.

6.5 Brian thanked Mr John White who had undertaken the Independent Inspection of the accounts. Mr White’s has volunteered to inspect the Society’s accounts for the current Financial Year and his appointment was endorsed by the meeting.

6.6 Brian concluded by advising that this would be his final year as the Society’s treasurer.

**Item 7 – Election of Chairman, Officers, and Committee Members for 2022-2023**

7.1 Malcolm Stevens read out the nominations, proposers and seconders for officers as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nominee | Proposer | Seconder |
| **Chair** | **Richard Cook** | Jeffery Knott | Brian Mansbridge |
| **Vice-Chair** | (vacant) |  |  |
| **Hon. Secretary** | **Malcolm Stevens** | Richard Cook | Sue Cook |
| **Hon. Treasurer** | **Brian Mansbridge** | Malcolm Stevens | Jeffery Knott |

There being no other nominations and no objections, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were deemed to have been duly elected. In view of there being no nomination for the position of Vice Chair and no one forthcoming at the meeting, the position will be discussed by the committee in due course.

7.2 At this point in the proceedings Richard Cook took over the Chair from Louis Murray.

7.3 Malcolm Stevens advised that in accordance with the Constitution, the Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than six members. Nominations had been received from the following six members and therefore no formal ballot is required. The committee members duly elected are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nominee | Proposer | Seconder |
| 1 | **Kevin Casey** | Judith Feeney | Richard Cook |
| 2 | **Sue Cook** | Malcolm Stevens | Sue Courtney |
| 3 | **Judith Feeney** | Malcolm Stevens | Sue Cook |
| 4 | **Diane Furlong** | Richard Cook | Brian Mansbridge |
| 5 | **Richard Harrison** | Veronica Thomson- Glover | David Taylor |
| 5 | **Jeffery Knott** | Brian Mansbridge | Sue Courtney |

7.4 Gosport Borough Council recognises that the Society, is an organisation which, although independent from the Council, has an impact on its service areas. In order that the Council can maintain effective partnerships with the Society, a representative is appointed to sit on the Society’s Committee in an ex-officio capacity. At the Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May 2022, **Councillor Julie Westerby** was appointed as the Council’s representative to the Gosport Society for 2022/3.

**Item 8 – Special Presentations**

9.1 –Alan Scard is a man of Gosport.Very knowledgable about & interested in the town. Has given 11 years to Gosport Society as ex-officio committee member.

**Item 10 – AOB**

10.1 –LM declared that this will be his last year as chair of executive committee.

10.2 –LM thanked everyone for attending, extending special thanks to Mayor for his time & commitment.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

Signed as a true record of Account. R Harrison D Furlong

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| Dated : |  |  |  |
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