 **Gosport Society**

 **Registered as Charity No. 289942**

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

**held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th June 2019**

**at The Gosport Sea Cadet Hall, Cooperage Green,**

**Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport**

The Mayor of Gosport, Cllr. Kathleen Jones, formally opened the meeting.

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

Cllr. Kathleen Jones, Mayor of Gosport, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. As LM was only candidate for position of chair, his nomination was endorsed, and he resumed the chairing of the meeting from the Mayor of Gosport.

As chair, Louis Murray welcomed everyone and thanked members for attending.

**Item 2 – Apologies:** Annie Robertson, Joyce Neville, Mr. & Mrs. Foote, Mr. P. Tribe, Mrs. N. Tribe, Mrs. C. Shurrock, Mr. Alan Dent.

**Present:** Mrs Mary Bell, Mrs Sue Blower, Mr George Blower, Mr Kevin Casey, Mr Richard Cook,

Mrs Sue Cook, Mrs Sue Courtney, Mrs Philippa Dickinson, Mrs Mary Duly,

Mrs Christeen Edwards, Mrs Diane Furlong, Mr Raymond Furlong, Mrs Veronica Giles,

Mr Keith Gill,  Mrs Eira Gill,  Mr Richard Harrison, Mr Ian Jeffrey, Mrs Mary King,

Mr Adrian Knight,  Mrs N Knight,  Mrs Margaret Ladd,  Mr Brian Mansbridge,  Mr Roger Mawby,

Mrs M Mellars,  Mrs Veronica Moore, Miss Jean Morton,  Mr Louis Murray,  Mrs A J Neal,

Mr R Perry, Mrs Doreen Pladdys,  Mr Brian Russell,  Mrs S J Russell,  Mrs Pat Sumpner,

Mr Malcolm Stevens, MrsJoyce Upperton**,** Mr Alan Scard.

**Item 3 – Minutes of the last AGM held on13th June 2018:**

1. Louis Murray requested endorsement of the Minutes as an accurate record. Minutes endorsed.

**Item 4 –Chairman’s Report (Louis Murray)**

* 1. Louis read his report to the meeting and thanked the committee. Appendix 1.
	2. LM formally commended Kay Allen of the Tourist Information Centre for her work and support.

**Item 5 – Honorary Treasurer’s Report to the Gosport Society’s AGM 2019**

5.1 Brian Mansbridge presented his accounts for the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. The members accepted and endorsed the financial report. Appendix 2.

**Item 6 – Election of Chairman and Officers for 2019-2020**

6.1 The nominations, as read by Mayor Cllr. Kathleen Jones, were as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Candidate** | **Initials** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
| Chairman | Louis Murray | LM | Sue Courtney | Brian Mansbridge |
| Vice Chairman | Sue Courtney | SJC | Louis Murray | Malcolm Stevens |
| Honorary Secretary | Malcolm Stevens | MS | Louis Murray | Sue Courtney |
| Honorary Treasurer | BrianMansbridge | BM | Louis Murray | Sue Cook |

There being no other nominations and no objections, the Chair and Officers were elected/re-elected by a show of hands.

**Item 7 - Election of Committee for 2019-20120**

The following nominations were received, and the nominees duly elected.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Nominee** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
| 1 | Cllr. Kevin Casey | Malcolm Stevens | Sue Courtney |
| 2 | Richard Cook | Malcolm Stevens | Sue Courtney |
| 3 | Sue Cook | Sue Courtney | Malcolm Stevens |
| 4 | Richard Harrison | Philippa Dickinson | Malcolm Stevens |

7.1 Cllr. Alan Scard was re-appointed GBC representative in an ex-officio capacity.

7.2 Nominations from the floor for the two remaining committee member vacancies was sought. No nominations were forthcoming – but may be considered in the forthcoming period.

**Item 8 – Special Presentations**

8.1 Mrs. Philippa Dickinson was presented with flowers, a bottle of sherry and card signed by members of executive committee. She was thanked for her service to: a) the Society in general; b) the executive committee; c) service on the planning sub-committee. Philippa thanked everyone and remains a member of the society.

8.2 Mr. Adrian Knight, a founder member of the Gosport Society, was offered the title of Honorary Vice President of the Gosport Society. He accepted with thanks as due acknowledgement of his role in the society.

**Item 9 – AOB**

9.1 BM formally thanked Mr. John White, volunteer accounts examiner, for his work in examining the Gosport Society accounts and for agreeing to do same next year.

The meeting closed at 19.54

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Signed:** | ***Louis Murray****Chairman* | **Signed:** | ***Malcolm Stevens****Secretary* |
| **Date:** | **20 June 2019** | **Date:** | **21 June 2019** |

**Appendix 1**

**The Gosport Society AGM 2019 Chairman’s Annual Report**

The year 2018/19 has witnessed an unprecedented – but highly productive – level of activity for The Gosport Society. Due to cost and facility pressures, new premises for meetings were sought and found. A range of municipal development initiatives, including the awarding of Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) to the Borough of Gosport required detailed input from the Society. By the time you read this the Society will have formally signed the HAZ ‘Partnership’ agreement with GBC, Historic England and similar agencies. Similarly, liaisons have taken place on a regular basis with other organizations such as the Hampshire Archives Trust, the Tourist Information Office, Lee Residents Association and so on. The Society is enjoying a period of stability, remains solvent, and discharges its responsibilities on a wide range of fronts – scrutinized and backed by three trustees approved by Society bankers and the Charities Commission. The executive committee meets monthly, now at the constituency offices of The Conservative Party on Stoke Road. This is a hire of premises only arrangement. It connotes no political party involvement or affiliation. Meetings are well-attended, discussions are forthright and appropriately Minuted.

Monthly member talks currently take place at the Sea Cadets Centre in Cooperage Green. A diverse range of topics recently included : Haslar Barracks – Lost Pubs of Gosport – Village water Pumps in SE England – etc. The programme operates on a rolling continuum and speakers are booked until June 2020. A leaflet listing the talks for the next year is available. Members actively participated in the September 2018 Heritage Open Days Festival and will do so again in September 2019.Other ‘Outreach’ events included a Society stand at the well-attended 75th Anniversary of D Day events both at Stokes Bay (1/2 June) and Daedalus (8/9 June). Large numbers of the public were greeted at these events and supplied with a new version of the Society leaflet and membership form. Our publications were purchased in significant numbers. Many links were forged with other voluntary sector groups.\*Our colourful and attractive roller banner visually paraded Society objectives.i

Pleasant social events included a Trafalgar Day high tea and quiz at the Anglesey Hotel. A coach trip to the Whitchurch Silk Mill was well-supported. This evening at our buffet we will be entertained by Vintage Sounds. Planning for a members Christmas lunch in early December is underway.

The planning sub-committee has been very active in 2018/19. The vitally important function of scrutinizing plans for development in the conservation and built estate areas of the borough, and regular liaison with the GBC planning division, continues unabated. Society recommendations continue to be acknowledged by town hall. Similarly, controversial elements of plans for Fort Gilkicker, Gunboat Yard, parts of the Daedalus site, Priddys Hard etc, have all been reviewed and robustly documented. Key Gosport Society reports on planning, conservation and heritage are now routinely placed on the website for reading and research. The awarding of Heritage action Zone status foreshadows further busy years ahead for the planning sub-committee .

 I remain confident of the medium term future for the Society. BUT – The Gosport Society needs your involvement and participation. Put out the good word. Talk to friends and family. Raise our profile. Expand our membership as we approach our 50th Anniversary in 2020.

**\*I place on record my thanks to all members, including executive committee members, for all your support of the Society during the year. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated*.***

**Best wishes**

Louis Murray. Chairman. The Gosport Society.

**Appendix 2.**

**Honorary Treasurer’s Report to the Gosport Society’s AGM 2019**

I took most accounting functions from the Society’s former Hon Treasurer at the 2018 AGM so the financial report that I am presenting starts from that base line. My full control of all of all banking functions was accomplished in July 2018. The Society account is now maintained on a computer based spreadsheet as befits up to date banking and accounting practices. Sincere thanks to all those members who have made their 2019 renewal by electronic banking, BACS transfer, which some banks call ‘Faster Payments.’ Just think of all the time and costs saved as well as the environmental benefits of not transferring bits of paper, cash, cheques and postal orders in the post or by various forms of transport!

I would encourage all remaining members able to pay membership or any other fees by electronic banking, (BACS transfer/Faster Payments) using the Bank Code: 09:06:66 Account No: 40966415. Use your name or both initials if renewing a joint membership. It would also be helpful if you email the membership/social secretary (membership@gosportsociety.co.uk) advising her of your transfer payment for membership payments or social events. Any other payments can also be made by electronic banking to the same account and please advise the treasurer by email to: treasurer@gosportsociety.co.uk.

Financially the Society remains well founded. Last year the increase in the membership fee to £12 was calculated to meet the regular running costs of the Society, providing all the social events and trips remain cost neutral. This delicate balance remains the case for 2019-20 as your Chairman and Secretary have worked hard to find suitable but lower cost venues for both the Society’s Committee and Public meetings. Unfortunately, following refurbishment Hampshire County Council put the hire charges for the Discovery Centre beyond the means of a small charity like ours.

The synopsis of the accounts below shows that the income over expenditure, in year, almost balances thus with the lesser cost of meeting venues your £12 membership subscriptions is projected to cover our running costs for the coming year. The Society Officers and Committee are all volunteers, there are no salaries and very few expenses, it appears all the committee use their own resources and only re-charge for outlays like postage, paper and printer ink. The deficit reported in the previous year is primarily due to project costs. If the Society supports any major projects in future it can only be funded from an appeal or drawdown on our approximate £12k reserve.

The Gosport Society Accounts are at the Appended. Fortunately they are simple accounts for the reasons:

   A proposal to take the project funds into the main Society account was made prior to my taking over as  Treasurer since the funds were already combined into one saving account. Any reporting distinctions was a paper exercise only. (minutes of the GS Committee Mtg of 17 April 2018 and ratified by the Committee of 9 April 2019). In future any project funding will be decided by the Executive Committee drawing on the consolidated savings account.

  The Society Accounts are now managed on a computer spreadsheet and can easily be reported and analysed to ensure probity, as has been achieved to the satisfaction of an Independent Examiner.

  The Society Officers and Committee do not receive any salary and primarily use their personal resources for the Society business, thus expenses are clearly less than the actual cost to those individuals.

  The Society does not own any property, assets or have any market investments. Any assets are depreciated on receipt.

*Brian Mansbridge, Honorary Treasurer*

Attached:

Enclosures:

* GS Annual Accounts for the year 2018-19, Closed and Examined as at 31 March 2019.

