



THE BIRMINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

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Company number 6426178 | Charity number 1123806

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS on Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 5:30pm

Present

Chair: Amelia Ladbrook

Members: 25 other trustees and members, as listed at the end of the minutes

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed trustees and members. The meeting was being held face to face, following a dip in the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, although a significant number of members had been unable to attend in person.

This was to be the final event in the Chair's term of office. She commented that the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI) continued to be the Society's office address and thanked the BMI for hosting the AGM as well as various other BCS meetings.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from the President, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham Cllr Muhammad Afzal, and 30 members of the Society as listed at the end of the minutes. Sean Elson and Matthew Vaughan had appointed the Chair as their proxy.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered under the agenda items.

4 Annual report

The Chair, Amelia Ladbrook, summarised the annual report, which was published on the website and would also be distributed by email with the newsletter.

She praised the wonderful work of the committees and a large number of volunteers in the challenging circumstances that continued during the year:

- The Citizenship Committee was best known for managing the annual Next Generation Awards, and this year's event had included the presentation of plaques to the inaugural School Stars. Members applauded Jo Dunlop for her part in arranging the competition and raising funds.
- The Planning Committee had been consulted on a record number of planning applications and had facilitated discussions on the future of the Austin Village.
- The Heritage Committee had continued to research and install blue plaques, with the unveiling event of the plaque for Marie Beauclerc being live-streamed online. Some older blue plaques had been refurbished and members were encouraged to let the Committee know of any others that required attention.
- The Trees Committee had organised a lot of activities, although almost all its tree planting had to be done by the City Council due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- The Public Art Committee was supporting an initiative known as the City of a Thousand Artworks and conducting an ongoing dialogue with the City Council through the Public Art Gateway Group to track the progress of art projects.

The Chair had been inspired by the expertise and passion of the BCS community of volunteers and felt privileged to have been involved, despite the inevitable limitation of activities during the pandemic.

5 Annual accounts

The Hon Treasurer, Robin Barnes, presented the annual accounts for the year ended 30th June 2021 which had been circulated before the meeting.

He pointed out that corporate membership subscriptions had fallen since the previous year, although individual membership income had risen somewhat. Steps had been taken to limit expenditure and, although a deficit had been forecast, there was in fact a small surplus during the year to enhance the reserves.

The Next Generation Awards had been supported by grants amounting to around £15,000, almost double the previous year's total. Overall the Society's financial position had improved during the Chair's term of office, with reserves that could support foreseeable expenditure for about two years. The corporate membership income lost while staff were working from home would have to be replaced, though.

Stephen Hartland proposed a motion to adopt the annual accounts, which was seconded by Glyn Pitchford and carried unanimously.

6 Election of trustees

Two trustees had been co-opted by the Board since the last AGM and, being eligible, had offered themselves for election:

- *Stephanie Bloxham*, the chair of the Citizenship Committee, was proposed by Michael Butler and seconded by Geoff Cole; and
- *Matt Vaughan*, the chair of the Planning Committee, was proposed by Stephen Hartland and seconded by Glyn Pitchford.

Motions to elect them were carried unanimously. They were welcomed back to the Board.

Four trustees were stepping down:

- *Rita McLean* had served the maximum three consecutive three-year terms of office. She had made a major impact as past chair of the Heritage Committee.
- *Tony Elvin* and *Sean Elson* had both served two consecutive three-year terms of office and their work commitments now made it more difficult to attend meetings.
- *Haroon Qayum* had served five years in office and no longer had time to devote to the Board.

Two trustees who had been coopted during the year were standing for election:

- *Chris Adamson*, a member of the Heritage Committee, was proposed by Haroon Qayum and seconded by Rita McLean; and
- *Rickie Josen*, a member of the Membership Committee, was proposed by Geoff Cole and seconded by Stephanie Bloxham.

Motions to elect them were carried unanimously. They were welcomed to the Board.

7 Handover to the new Chair

Amelia Ladbrook had worked with Prof Michael Butler in the Citizenship Committee, which he had chaired for three years, and also as fellow trustees for five years. She admired the innovations he had introduced and was pleased that the Board of trustees had elected him to succeed her as Chair.

The chain of office was transferred and Michael Butler recalled that his predecessor had been the youngest ever Chair of any Civic Society in England. In testing times she had not just kept the Society going but was leaving it in a stronger position than she had inherited. On behalf of all members he presented her with gifts – a flower arrangement, some wine and a commemorative plate.

In taking over he was equipped with experience and motivation, he was determined to assess what members really valued about the Society, with a view to bolstering its income and renewing the engagement with corporate members. He believed that he would only be as effective as the people around him, including Amelia who would be staying on as a trustee. He intended to widen participation in the Society, continuing to develop partnerships such as those with the BMI and Aston University.

He announced that a placement student from Aston Business School would be working with the Society and a job description was being prepared, aimed at exploring these themes in more depth. Working with the Committees, this should help to reach out to the student-age generation. The As One initiative could be one such beneficiary, as it would like additional resource to support its relaunch with the backing of Birmingham City Council.

8 Birmingham Big Art Project

Glyn Pitchford reported on a separate charity, fundraising and developing the selected artwork called Station Clock – conceived to celebrate the Society's centenary. This was to be an aural clock, located at the entrance to the forthcoming HS2 station. A Twelve Tones project was more than half way through recording the 1,092 voices that would be heard around the clock. The City Council would be contributing, as the artwork was expected to be a focal point for tourism. Replying to a question from Viv Astling, Glyn Pitchford confirmed that HS2 would also be contributing towards the cost. A model of the artwork's ground-level clockface was on display in the BMI foyer.

9 Any other business – amendment to Articles of Association

A motion to change the due date for each membership subscription from a fixed date in July to the anniversary of that member's previous due date was proposed by Amelia Ladbrook, seconded by Geoff Cole and carried unanimously.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 6:20pm.

Trustees and members who signed the attendance sheet:

Fiona Adams	James Fletcher
Christopher Adamson	John Gale
Viv Astling OBE DL	Io Gray-Davies
Robin Barnes	Stephen Hartland MBCS FRSA
Stephanie Bloxham	Dr Angela Jeffery PhD
Prof Michael Butler PhD, FRSA, FCIM	Jamie Justham
Geoff Cole	Amelia Ladbrook
Christine Cushing	Rita McLean
Timothy Cuthbertson	Daniel Parsons (representing BMI)
Kay Dashti	Glyn Pitchford
Irene de Boo	Haroon Qayum
Jo Dunlop	Richard Sapcote FCIOB
Tony Elvin	Matthew Vaughan DipArch RIBA AABC

Trustees and members who sent apologies for absence:

Zac Barker-Williams	Katie Luker
Charles Barwell	Bryan Manley-Green
Denise Brosnan	Kevin Manley-Green
Penny Colbourne	Mary Martin
Sir Frederick Crawford	Gavin Orton
Liz Dancey	Clive Phillips
John Dexter	Jean Pratt
Judy Dyke MBE	Jon Stevens
Sean Elson	Peter Tod
Tony Elvin	David Treadwell
Kavan Hawker	Veronica Treadwell
Ros Hext	Robert Vaughan
Peter Jones	Steve Walker
Rickie Josen	Michelle Welby
John Latham	Rupert Young