



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
at Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham on 21 September 2021

Group photograph of award winners:

- Merit Award to Paul Stephenson and Delicious, Renovation of 2 Vine Street
 - Commendations to Flavours, Louise's Florist
1. Present: Pat & Ian Stanton, Colin Tether, Sue Campbell, Anne Albright, Brian Chilver, Denise & Stephen Bailey, Jim Powell, Linda Hart, John Dudley, Barbara & John Goodwin, Beryl and Denis Trimbell, Adrian Peake, Gillian Pawson.
 2. Apologies: Betty Ballard, Jackie Hale, Caroline Abbey, Julie Peake, Julie and Tim Haines, Ken Pawson and J Scemia.
 2. Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting on 10 November 2020 were approved.
 3. Matters arising from previous meeting. The Chair reported that the planning application for the air raid shelter down Orchard Way was refused and that no further discussion had been held with the Historical Society about a possible merger.
 4. The Annual Report was accepted as read.
 5. The Hon Treasurer's Report was presented by Adrian Peake. He commented that the 2020/21 financial year showed a surplus of income over expenditure as there were no costs incurred from outings or speakers; the previous year's expenditure on the website and the exhibition materials was not repeated; no new booklets needed printing and the year included a double payment of Gift Aid, including the 2019/2020 payment which had failed to reach the account before the end of the financial year.

Included in the reserves is a sum of £780, given by WCC in two parts, to contribute to renovating the signs on the Workman Bridge and to the improvements in the fountain area. Due to the lack of match funding from WDC and ETC, neither project is yet able to go ahead. So, Colin Tether decided to clean and repaint the two bridge signs, which he did with great success. Thanks were given for his efforts.

Colin Tether also provided an update of the progress with the scheme to upgrade the fountain area, to the north of the roundabout outside Lidl. It is intended to return the old cattle trough to the site, provide a sign, a new bench and litter bin. The cost of the sign has already been committed. Funding had been sought from this year's New Homes Bonus allocation for Evesham, but due to poor administration by the Town Council, the application failed. An application is likely to be made to the Town Council for funding from its own resources, which will need members support, in due course. The financial report was proposed for acceptance by Ian Stanton and Seconded by Linda Hart and agreed by those present.

6. Election of Officers: No voting was needed and three of the current officers are prepared to continue. The Secretary has resigned, due to taking up residence in London, although he may still spend time in Evesham and be able to help on occasion.
 1. Chairman – Gill Pawson



2. Vice Chairman – Brian Chilver
3. Hon Treasurer – Adrian Peake
4. Hon Secretary - vacant

The officers were proposed by Beryl Treimbell and seconded by Colin Tether and agreed by those present.

The Chair pointed out that the constitution allows the Society to co-opt members to the committee and thus appoint a Secretary. So, the position might be filled at any time during the year, if a willing volunteer can be found. Meanwhile the Chair will undertake the secretarial role as well.

Thanks are recorded by the efforts of Colin Tether during his time on the committee and as an officer of the Society.

7. Election of Executive Committee: The current members had indicated their willingness to continue, namely Pat Stanton as Membership Secretary, Sue Campbell as Programme Secretary, Ian Stanton, Julie and Tim Haines. Their continuation was proposed by Colin Tether and Seconded by John Goodwin and agreed by those present.
8. Appointment of Auditors: Peter Gay, a contact of the Treasurer, has kindly agreed to check the annual accounts, for which only very modest payment is expected. His continuation was agreed by those present.
9. Open Forum:
The Chair reported on three areas of work that the Committee will be working on during the year.
 - Firstly, working with the Planning Enforcement Team at Wychavon District Council to try to reduce the number of incidents of non-compliance with planning law and regulations, especially in respect of the large number of retail properties in the Conservation Area that have applied external posters over their entire window areas.
 - Secondly, working on bringing to the attention of owners and occupiers of buildings in the Conservation Area to building maintenance problems e.g. missing paintwork, rotting timbers, blocked gutters, decaying roof tiles, exposed wiring. It is hoped that by writing to property occupiers and owners that some improvements will be made. If the Council's Town Centre Prospectus then brings in investment to the town, to both properties and the public realm, we may begin to see a more attractive town centre.
 - Thirdly, next year is the Society's 50th anniversary. It needs to be the trigger for raising the profile of the Society, to try to attract more, younger members but it also needs to provide an opportunity for existing members to celebrate the event. Any ideas on what to do next year will be gratefully received.

Jim Powell brought to members attention the instalment of a new Clerk for the Town Council and expressed his hope that this will make the Town Council more responsive to the needs of the town.

John Dudley asked if VECS had been involved in the scheme to renovate the Lock Keepers Cottage. The Society had not been involved but was aware of the scheme as it was one of those put forward in 2019 for a share of the New Homes Bonus. It has recently been announced that it will benefit from a grant from WDC from a different source of funding, so work should start soon.

Brian Chilver reminded members that it was the Society that was instrumental in getting the old Quay, off Castle Street, retained as a historic feature of the town.



Linda Hart asked about the proposals for the Public Hall. The planning application for the detailed changes, which need Listed Building consent as well, is not yet in the public arena, but due out for consultation soon. The committee will be taking a close look at this and commenting accordingly. Proposals for the wider Riverside redevelopment are not expected this year.

John Goodwin thanked the officers and committee, on behalf of the members, for the work that had gone on during the lockdowns and now that we are more able to get out and about; this was seconded by Anne Albright.

The evening finished with an excellent, illustrated talk by Stan Brotherton on how he sourced images for his publications on Worcestershire and Evesham.