



Vale of Evesham Civic Society AGM

Tuesday 10th November 2020

Remotely by Zoom.

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Gill Pawson: Chair, Adrian Peake: Host, Brian Chilver, Pam Cuthbert, Richard Ball, Gerry Harte, Betty Ballard, Deidre Sutton, John Sutton, John Goodwin, Barbara Goodwin, Robert Hale, Ian Stanton, Pat Stanton, Sue Campbell, Olga Allen, Ron Allen & Colin Tether

1. **Apologies:** Jill Haycock, Anne Allbright & Sue Ablett

2. **AGM Minutes of April 2019** were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.

4. **Annual Report.** The Annual Report was accepted. The Chair then mentioned matters that the Society had been dealing with since April:

- The start of the Conservation Area Audit (see below)
- Our presence at the Medieval Market at St Lawrence Church
- Planning applications at Pershore Road - Rooftop; Land off Abbey Road - highways and drainage details; Talbot Hotel additional rooms; Conference Centre at Prince Henry's;

More recent issues were:

- Pippins Court – Proposal to add two storeys to both buildings
- 1-3 Swan Lane – Casino proposal
- 64 Waterside – Extension
- Air raid shelter (see 9. below)

Discussion: Silos at Dawn Food. Richard Ball asked about the Silos at Dawn Food, Worcester Road. Gill said that they had been approved at a 2 metre reduced height and to be painted a colour, to be approved by WDC i.e. not left silver.

Conservation Area Audit: Gill described the Audit and the survey that Julie Haines and herself had carried out of Port Street. Merry Privett and Caroline Abbey had already volunteered to help. At the meeting, Pam Cuthbert, Robert Hale and John Goodwin also volunteered to help. Gill undertook to send details and to offer training.

5. Hon Treasurers Report

The accounts for the financial year ending February 2020 had been circulated to members. Adrian drew attention to a few specific items:

- Sale of publications better than 2018-19 by 30% at £214

- Less money had been spent than in the previous year on the cost of sending out newsletters. This was reduced by £330, as these are now mostly sent by email.
- The cost of speakers for meetings has increased and for some meetings with poor attendance, the income received does not off-set the speaker's fee.
- The expenditure includes the second half of the fee for the new website; this has now been paid in full, so any deficit for the year as a whole will be £600 less in the current year. The website is a capital asset which should last 5 years.
- The outlay on the exhibition panels for the display in the Library is a capital cost, as the panels will be used at future events, and some were used at the Medieval Market event. The panels will return to the Library to continue their display, once the Library is fully re-opened, which it is hoped will be in 2021.
- Reference was made to a sum of £780, given by WCC towards the cost of two projects – refurbishment of the plaques on Workman Bridge (£400) and of the area around the fountain at the junction of Elm Road and Broadway Road (£380). Both projects are yet to start.

Summary: Net excess of costs over income by £756.24 of which £600 is a "one-off" for the website.

Comments from Robert Hale:

- He thought the website was good.
- He commented on the Workman Bridge plaque project. He understood the cost of closing the pavement was £1,200 and suggested we hire a skip for £60 which you can leave in the road and use this as a shield for the restorers!

6. Election of Officers

It was noted that 4 completed voting forms had been received, two of which were from members not in attendance in the Zoom meeting. These two both confirmed acceptance of all officers and committee members.

The following were all elected unopposed.

Chair – Gill Pawson

Vic Chair – Brian Chilver

Hon. Treasurer – Colin Tether

Hon. Secretary – Adrian Peake

7. Election of Committee. Gill reported the resignation of Cefn Blundell due to family reasons. Sue Campbell, Pat Stanton, Ian Stanton, Julie Haines, Tim Haines were all elected unopposed. A request for additional members was not successful.

8. Appointment of Auditors

It was agreed that Adrian would again request the previous auditor – Peter Gay to carry out the audit.

9. Any Other Business

Pershore Road opposite the church: Deidre mentioned development which is boarded up. It was reported that the developer has become bankrupt.

Air raid shelter off Orchard Way: There was prolonged discussion. It seems that the applicant is claiming ownership of the access road. Gill said the ownership could be checked by requesting details from HM Land Registry at a cost of £4. Betty Ballard agreed to submit a request to the Land Registry. Betty disclosed a future use put forward by local residents as an exhibition of war time in Evesham, for use by schools and interested groups.

Possible Merger with Historical Society: Gill mentioned the early very informal discussions. Gerry said that this had been discussed at The Historical Society Committee and it had been agreed there were areas of common interest with advantages and disadvantages. Deidre mentioned including the Vale Heritage Trust. It was agreed that an informal, round-table discuss would be organised in 2021, when we are allowed to meet up, to extend the discussion. Brian said he felt that the Civic Society should concentrate on making itself stronger first. He said the Society needed three times more members and should re-launch the Society. John mentioned the U3A. He said that it covers many things but not much of it is community based. Possibly there could be a Community Interest Group. Betty said that the Society ought to give a talk at a U3A meeting.

Annual Lunch: Colin said that we had to postpone the Annual Dinner. We were looking at a Lunch in the spring, possibly at a venue within Evesham.

Website: Richard said the new website looked good.

Vote of thanks: John proposed a Vote of thanks to the Committee. This was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:35pm

Colin Tether
Hon. Secretary
14.11.2020