

DRAFT

Minutes of the 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY AND CIVIC SOCIETIES - held 7.30pm, 12th October 2017, at 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1

Present: Peter Eversden (Chairman), Judy Hillman and Marion Harvey (Vice-Presidents), and representatives of the Amwell Society, Angel Association, Beckenham Society, Bedford Park Society, Camden Civic Society, Clapham Society, Ealing Civic Society, Ealing Fields Residents Association, Earl's Court Society, Finchley Society, Gidea Park Civic Society, Greenwich Society, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association, Highbury Community Association, Highgate Society, Islington Society, Kensington Society, Ladywell Society, Putney Society, Regents Network, Sydenham Society, Pinner Association, Tottenham Civic Society, Westcombe Society and Wimbledon Society.

1. Preliminaries.

Before the meeting began Professor Tony Travers, a Patron of the Forum, gave a talk and answered questions, and representatives of the Highgate Society and of the Pinner Association gave short presentations based on their entries for the Forum's 2018 Awards Scheme.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 25th October 2016.

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the 2016 AGM had been circulated in News Forum and asked for any comments. In the absence of comments he proposed the acceptance of the Minutes. These were agreed, nem con.

3. Chairman's report.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Committee members, and all member societies, for their support during the year, and especially Alan Baxter for providing office and meeting space. The Forum's Annual Report had been circulated: he drew particular attention to the work the Forum was undertaking on the new Mayor's London Plan (Sadiq Khan was showing a refreshing approach in his strategies). He hoped that all member societies would involve themselves in the process.

4. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts for 2016/17:

The Chairman said that the Treasurer was not able to be present; if there were any questions on the accounts he would try to answer them, or refer them to the Treasurer for a response. The Forum's financial position was healthy, and there was no need for a subscription increase this year, though it would be kept under review. Problems with the recently adopted web-based subscription system seemed to have led to a reduction in income - the Trustees would examine this carefully with a view to possible simplification; it might be necessary to get paid help with the website and database. At the previous AGM a question had been asked by the Putney Society about the Forum's policy on reserves; the Trustees would be looking at this - it was necessary to have sufficient funds to cover contingencies, especially the possible unavailability of a meeting room at Cowcross Street. Mr Bosi and Mrs Harvey both expressed their admiration for all the work Mr Eversden undertook, it was essential for there to be more people to share the burden. Mr Bosi proposed and Mrs Marcus seconded the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016/17; the motion was passed nem con.

5. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner:

Mr Egan was willing to continue, and this was agreed.

6. Election of Trustees:

The Chairman reported that three members of the Executive Committee retired by rotation and were willing to stand for election. Each had been nominated: Michael Bach, Diane Burrige and Peter Pickering. There were still several vacancies; Andrew Bosi of the Islington Society and John Myers of the Camden Civic Society were willing to serve, and two other people had also expressed some interest. It would be possible for the Trustees to co-opt during the year. A motion to elect the five candidates en bloc was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Chandler. They were elected nem con.

The Trustees would appoint the officers at their next meeting; Mr Eversden would continue as Chairman, Mr Bach as Vice-Chairman, Mr Chandler as Secretary and Mr Allen as Treasurer. It would be necessary to find a replacement for Mr Linskey, the Membership Secretary, who was resigning; perhaps the membership secretary of a society would find it possible to take on this extra task.

7 Amendment to the Constitution

The Chairman said that the proposed amendment to the Constitution that had been circulated was required to remove the reference to registration with the Civic Trust, an organisation that no longer existed, and to clarify the acceptability of new applicants for membership of the Forum. It might be desirable to look more deeply at various provisions of the constitution, but that would take time, and might involve the Charity Commission; the Trustees would look at this subject in 2017/18. The AGM agreed to make the amendments as set out below:-

In paragraph E, delete sub-paragraph (1) in its entirety and replace with:

(1) Full membership of the Charity:

(i) shall be open to any local amenity or civic society or group, not being party political, having as its basic objective the protection and improvement of the environment within Greater London; and

(ii) which is, in the opinion of the Chair and Membership Secretary of the Charity or in any case where they do not agree a simple majority of the Executive Committee, suitable for full membership; and

(iii) provided always that such organisation shall have paid the annual subscription as laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee.

8. Any Other Business:

The Chairman said that it was proposed to carry out a survey of members, using SurveyMonkey, to help the Trustees judge better what member societies wanted of the Forum, and help it go forward. Ms Chegwiddden (Putney Society) felt that there could be a more regular channel of communication from member societies to the Forum; Ms Burrige said that she was very happy to receive newsletters and other communications from societies physically or by email; Mrs Marcus added that she would like more suggestions for the 'focus on member societies' - Mrs Harvey suggested a focus on the Patron, Tony Travers.