

Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd March 2023

Annual General Meeting of the Chingford Historical Society held on 23rd March 2023

1. Apologies for absence. Received from Peter Uglow, Lynn and Peter Haseldine-Jones and Patrick Smith.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24th March 2022. These were approved by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes. Last year it was requested that minutes be made available on our website. The AGM Minutes are now on there. In relation to general committee meeting minutes after some consideration it had been decided that as none of the other historical societies do this we would adopt this stance too.

4. Chairman's report. This was approved by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions.

5. Treasurer's report.

Questions arising from the Treasurer's report

Anthony Thorne asked as to why there was no figure against the assets on the statement of accounts. Are they written off in full? The Treasurer answered essentially yes. They would have some residual value if we tried to sell them but we can't put a meaningful figure against them.

Judith Roberts asked about the low rate of interest shown on the accounts in comparison to last year. The Treasurer confirmed that this was correct.

Judith also pointed out a typo in the wording underneath 'Financial Examination'. It should say "for the period ended 31 December 2022".

Judith also asked for the balance being carried forward to be explained as it wasn't very clear.

Tim Emblem-English asked whether the Accounts were going to be on the website or are they already there? The answer was that there was no reason they can't go on there.

Lawrie Curtis asked whether we had looked into Gift Aid. The Treasurer replied that this had been raised at our last general committee meeting and he was looking into it.

Ian Slater related his experience with local groups and said it may not be cost effective for the amount of work involved. It would only be for genuine donations from people who paid tax, not subscriptions. CHS probably doesn't have enough donations to make it worthwhile.

Sue Clark wanted clarity as to what the hub was used for and whether members will be able to access CHS's room for research purposes. The Treasurer replied that the plan will be for our room to be open for members for this purpose in the future but we're not at that stage yet. The Chair added that committee members are attending regularly to archive and catalogue our documents. There have been some teething problems with the building which has slowed things down but the end result will be a much better use of our records which are now all in one place.

The Treasurer's report was approved by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions.

6. Election of officers.

The Treasurer announced that Angela Wagstaff was standing down as Secretary.

The Chair offered the Society's thanks for her tireless work over at least 30 years with the Society in many different roles and most recently as Secretary.

The Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary were all re-elected by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions. The rest of the committee were re-elected by the same margin.

Lawrie Curtis had volunteered to join the committee as Secretary, and having been proposed by Gary Stone and seconded by Simon Goulter was elected by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions.

Patrick Smith had volunteered to join the committee, and having been proposed by Gary Stone and seconded by Simon Goulter was elected by 57 members with no votes against or abstentions.

7. Appointment of a Financial Examiner

The 2022 Accounts had been examined by John Gilbert who has done it for a number of years but doesn't wish to do it anymore. The Treasurer thanked him for all his good work over many years. We don't yet have a Financial Examiner for next year.

8. Any other business.

Feedback had been received from an unnamed member that there should be more talks about old Chingford and less about more general matters. The Treasurer read out a statement from Alison Goulter to the effect that with 11 talks a year we try to have a mixture of talks on local subjects, relatively local London/Essex and more general historical subjects further afield. It is impossible to find 11 speakers each year to talk just about different aspects of Chingford's history. Alison thanked all the speakers for the work they had put in and suggested that if anyone wanted to recommend a speaker or would like to do the necessary research for a talk then give a talk themselves please get in touch with Alison.

Judith Roberts congratulated all the committee for the hard work they have done throughout the year.

Fran Chalkwright asked if we knew about the imminent closure of the Methodist Church on Station Road. Pat Leaver and Richard Leaver separately responded saying it wasn't a done deal yet. Pat said that it would close for worship at the end of August as there will be no minister beyond that time.

The Chair asked if we could ensure CHS could visit the church before it closed with a view to filming the interior. Pat Leaver said she would ask at the next church meeting if there was someone who could take CHS around the church giving a commentary about it.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.