

THE WESTBURY ON TRYM SOCIETY
DRAFT MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Westbury on Trym Village Hall
Monday 30 April 2018

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
37 Members were in attendance, in addition to the Committee Members.

2. Committee Members Present

Hilary Long (Chairman), David Mayer (Treasurer), Rosemary Evitts (Membership Secretary), Alan Aburrow (Webmaster and Community Plan Co-ordinator), Jane Plummer (WIB Co-ordinator)

3. Apologies for Absence

Pamela Winter, Henry Sager, David Moore, Ron Sims, David & Margaret McGregor, Jenny Enderby, Henry Deval, Jill Kempshall

4. Minutes of 2017 AGM

1. **Errors/Omissions:** None
2. **Matters Arising:** None
3. **Motion 1, Proposal to accept the Minutes:** Proposed by Arthur Brice; seconded by Ken Mewes
- Motion carried, nem con

5. Annual Report and Chairman's Comments

The Chairman thanked the serving Committee Members and highlighted several issues that were of concern to the Society.

1. **Thanks to Committee Members:**

Treasurer, David Mayer, for his regular monthly reports on our finances and his meticulous records for the Charity Commission.

Membership Secretary, Rosemary Evitts, for her conscientious management of our Membership records and gently nudging late payers. She has also taken on responsibility for organising the annual appeal for contributions to fund the flower pots and hanging baskets in the village.

Webmaster, Alan Aburrow, for keeping our website updated – especially all the latest significant Planning Applications. This is in addition to advertising events for the Society and other organisations and dealing with numerous enquiries received via the “Contacts” page.

Westbury in Bloom Co-ordinator, Jane Plummer, who has an intensive few months in the Spring, collecting and organising the sponsorships and monetary contributions to the flower pots and hanging baskets, plus collecting contributions from the Business Association's retailers and banks for their hanging baskets.

Committee Member, Bob Murphy, who recently joined the Committee as what may best be described as our “odd job man”. He is always ready to give valuable expert opinion on planning matters from his professional experience in the building industry.

2. **Thanks to Other Supporters:** the Chairman extended her thanks to other Members for their valuable contributions to keeping the Society “well-oiled”.

Jill Kempshall, for her valuable experience and involvement with the Society's review of the regular flow of significant major Planning Applications that attempt to affect the local landscape with new buildings and the loss of yet more garden space and trees.

Malcolm Neave, for his valuable contributions as Secretary of the informal Library support group and dealing with members of our City council. Thanks also to **Mary Neave, Jill Kempshall, and Alexia Gardner** for holding coffee mornings to sign up supporters for the out-of-hours' service and special entry cards.

Graham Donald, who took on the task of encouraging people to fill in the recent BCC Parks and Green Spaces Consultation, plus yet another leaflet-drop around the houses of Westbury.

The Chairman also remarked that her thanks would not be complete without the inclusion of all those extra people who support Open Meetings, gardening and planting in the Packhorse Garden (and more recently Canford Park), make punch, pour wine, provide photographs for the Newsletter and are on hand to sort out sound systems and projectors from time to time! These include, **Bill Long, Jean Calway, Diana Hawley, Graham Plummer, Henry Deval, Roger Smith and Arthur Brice**. The Society's thanks were also extended to our delivery teams and volunteer gardeners.

3. **Committee Matters:** the Committee meets every month to conduct business of many kinds and that recorded in our Newsletters is just a flavour of what is happening. However, the cost of printing more frequent Newsletters is prohibitively expensive and cannot be afforded with the current annual subscription. The Chairman added that this is why she had recently started to send out extra news items by email, now that a large number of Members have access to the internet. However, this does disadvantage those members who are not "connected". Therefore, these Members can only be served by extra deliveries of printed News-sheets and this will need additional help with deliveries, as posting via Royal Mail would be prohibitively expensive.
4. **Plea for Help:** the Chairman reminded those present that we do need additional Committee Members; currently we do not have a **Minutes Secretary** or a **Meetings/Publicity Secretary**. Without the latter, the Society would be unable to organise any Open Meetings this Winter.
5. **Parking Issues:** the Chairman commented that she was conscious that parking on our streets was the subject of most comments from the public when objecting to Planning Applications. Similar objections are also frequently raised at the local Westbury Community Forum. Unfortunately, within the current local planning regulations, there is no "quick fix" and we have to leave it to our politicians to resolve.
6. **Canford Park:** with a severely reduced budget, BCC's Parks Dept will struggle to provide an adequate grounds maintenance service in future. Therefore, the Society, in conjunction with *Sustainable Westbury*, is currently recruiting volunteers to help maintain and restore the Rose Garden in Canford Park. Those who are interested in "lending a hand", should contact the Chairman.
7. **Village Hall's 150 Year Anniversary:** in January 2019, the Village Hall will be 150 years old and this will be cause for celebrations next year. Much help will be needed so, those wishing to volunteer their time, should contact the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee - Graham Plummer.

6. Approval of the Annual Report

The 2017/18 Annual Report had been included in the Society's Spring Newsletter, distributed to all Members. The Chairman asked if there were any questions arising from the Report - no questions were raised.

Motion 2, Acceptance of the 2017/18 Annual Report, proposed by Alexia Gardner; seconded by Ceri Addis - Motion carried, nem con

7. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the 2017/18 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were made available to those present. The Treasurer highlighted the fact that Registration as a Charity does impose certain conditions and obligations on the Society and hence the need for this formal part of the proceedings at our AGM.

In summary, the Treasurer commented that the 2017/18 Financial Statement had been inspected and signed by an independent Chartered Accountant with the comment "and appear to have been prepared in accordance with good practice". The Accounts and Balance Sheet indicated that there had been a surplus of £1,898.63 in the year and that the nett financial effect of our activities throughout the year was that we closed the year with a Cash surplus, with Funds on Deposit of £20,798.05 – the majority of which was held in reserve for the ongoing *Westbury in Bloom* commitments.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions arising from his Report and no questions were raised from the floor.

Motion 3, Acceptance of the 2017/18 Treasurer's Report, proposed by Bill Long; seconded by Geoff Gollop - Motion carried, nem con

8. Elections to Committee

By a show of hands, it was agreed that the current Committee Members should all be re-elected en bloc to serve for another year.

The chairman asked if any Member wished to be elected to the Committee and Malcolm Neave volunteered to serve as Publicity Officer.

Motion 4, Elect Malcolm Neave to the Society's Committee, proposed by Bill Long; seconded by Alexia Gardner – Motion carried, nem con.

9. Questions and AOB

Alexia Gardner asked that, following the closure of Westbury's public toilet, which local businesses were willing to offer their facilities to the public and would they receive a reduction in their Business rates. Cllr Geoff Gollop replied that no businesses were currently offering their toilets for use by non-customers and that such proposals were not supported by Westbury's councillors. Currently the public toilets in Canford Park were being maintained by the Council and toilets on The Downs were being maintained by the Downs Committee and the Trustees of the Suspension Bridge. Bill long opined that he could see no valid reason why local businesses would be interested in offering their services "for free". The Chairman encouraged those present to write to the Mayor and register their concerns.

Councillor Geoff Gollop proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Committee for their hard work in keeping the Society going.

In response to several questions, the Chairman confirmed that she is not a Member of any political party but added, jokingly, that in 1983 she had stood as the SDP candidate for Bristol North West and so could have been our local MP!

The AGM closed at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and an illustrated presentation by Eugene Byrne, entitled "Unbuilt Bristol".

Signed, Chairman:

Date: