

THE WESTBURY ON TRYM SOCIETY
DRAFT MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Westbury on Trym Village Hall
Monday May 13th 2019

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

27 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 (Westbury in Bloom Co-ordinator) and Malcolm Neave (Minutes Secretary).

3. Apologies for Absence

Geoffrey and Audrey Harman, Liz and Ron Cockitt, Jill Kempshall, Mollie Jones, Roger Day, Julien Carey, Jane Hole-Jones, Henry Deval and Val Kingdon.

4. Minutes of 2018 AGM

a) Errors and omissions: None

b) Matters arising: None

c) **Motion 1: Proposal to accept the minutes:** Proposed Alexia Gardner, Seconded Bill Long

Carried nem con

5. Annual Report and Chairman's Comments

Hilary opened her report by commenting on a number of issues which had affected the Village over the past year, including the A4018 proposals, the ongoing Parking review and the new Bristol Plan, as well as the continuing issue of planning applications in the area, which often focus on developing on green spaces and particularly on gardens. She then moved on to the need to continue Westbury's flower displays and to keep the various areas of Canford Park in "good trim", and thanked all those involved for their commitment and continued work for Westbury – the Society's Committee, Jean and her team of caterers, all members of the delivery team, casual gardeners and lastly her husband Bill for his continued and practical support!

6. Treasurer's Report for the financial year April 2018 – March 2019

Copies of the 2018/19 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were made available to those present. The Treasurer highlighted the fact that registration as a charity imposes certain requirements on the Society, and hence the need for a formal presentation and acceptance.

The Treasurer explained the role and contents of the Financial Statement, which is signed by an independent Chartered Accountant. The Balance Sheet showed that the Society's income and expenditure for the year were £11,673.91 and £11,811.49 respectively, meaning that there was a small nett deficit of £137.58. The result is that the Society closed the year with a cash surplus of £20,660.47 of which the majority was held in reserve for future Westbury in Bloom commitments.

The Treasurer then asked if there were any questions and, as none were raised, he requested someone to propose acceptance of the accounts.

Motion 2: Proposal to accept the 2018/19 Treasurer's Report: Proposed Bill Long, Seconded Roger Smith

Carried nem con

7. Results of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting of March 4th

At this meeting, several different options were offered for the future of the Society, dependent on whether nominations were forthcoming for some of the committee roles. As there have been no such nominations, the second option is now proposed, which will involve the replacement of the printed newsletter with an email version, the curtailment of Society-organised activities at the Village Hall and a reduction in the use of the Society's website. The chairman announced that she had persuaded two people to stand as committee members, so that there would be no need to reduce the number required to be present for a meeting to be quorate.

8. Elections to Committee

As David Mayer and Alan Aburrow had both previously announced their intention not to stand for re-election, the following nominations for the various committee roles were announced:

Chairman:	Hilary Long	Nom: Jane Plummer	Sec: Diana Hawley
Treasurer:	Malcolm Neave	Nom: Hilary Long	Sec: David Mayer
Membership:	Rosemary Evitts	Nom: David Mayer	Sec: Malcolm Neave
Flowers:	Jane Plummer	Nom: Hilary Long	Sec: Jean Calway
Committee:	Jean Calway	Nom: Bill Long	Sec: Liz Cockitt
Committee:	Julien Carey	Nom: Bill Long	Sec: Hilary Long

These posts will be reviewed at next year's AGM. All of the above members were elected unopposed.

Note: Julien Carey had agreed to serve on the committee but subsequently it was found that he was not currently a paid up member. Therefore the nomination is void. However he can be co-opted following receipt of his subscription.

9. Open discussion

Councillor Geoff Gollop emphasised the role of the Society in identifying and raising awareness of local planning issues – councillors can raise concerns with planning officers, if local residents have objections, and their hand is strengthened if a large number of people make their feelings known.

He also reminded members that the revised A4018 proposals would be presented to the Council in June and that while concerns which had been raised over the original version may have been noted, it would still be important to scrutinise the new version closely. (Subsequently we were informed that the proposals were radically changed, with most of the contentious aspects withdrawn, including the proposals for Westbury Village, but that there is still no reference to the need to monitor air quality).

In response to a question from the audience, He said that plans for two possible Park and Ride locations, one near the Brabazon hanger and the other at Cribbs Causeway, would be developed by South Gloucestershire, not Bristol, and that formal proposals had yet to be made public.

Alan Aburrow referred to the Westbury Parking Review which was now under way. This was based on proposals made in response to informal consultations some time ago, and Alan warned against requesting substantial changes to the proposals as that might mean that the whole scheme would be abandoned. The possibility of a residents' parking scheme was raised by the Chairman.

10. The Future Role of the Society

Hilary then expanded on her view that we need to look at new ways of communicating with members and with the wider public. While the reduced number of committee members would necessitate changes in what the Society could provide, it was important to retain its charitable status, for both financial and status terms – the latter being particularly relevant when dealing with organisations such as the Council. The Society would continue to support the Village Hall, now celebrating its 150th anniversary, to keep the local library, to help look after flowers and trees in Canford Park and to provide Floral displays around the Village. We will need to ensure the views of Westbury residents are represented when changes are proposed, either by the Council or by local developers.

11. We Love Stoke Lodge presentation

While refreshments were being organised, members of the We Love Stoke Lodge group gave a short presentation, outlining the actions taken by the School in fencing off a section of the area, the changes in attitude of the Council regarding the need for planning permission, and future actions proposed by the group.

12. Presentation to retiring Committee members

During the end-of-meeting refreshments, Hilary thanked David and Alan very much, on behalf of all our members for their exceptional work and support on the Committee over eight years and presented them with gifts of wine on behalf of the Society to enjoy at leisure!