

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 21st MAY, 2015, 7.30 p.m.
at The Moseley Exchange, The Post Office Building, Alcester Road,
Moseley.

Geoff Rees, in the chair, welcomed all to the meeting. There were 44 members and 4 non-members present. The AGM began at 7.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES had been received from Roy Cockel, Anna Williams, Sally Wright, David Whittingham, Liesel & Martin Rosindale, Councillor Lisa Trickett, Monica Ricketts, Steve & Jenny Peacock, Jenny Brewer, Carol Miller, Ruth & Richard Tetlow, Eric Adams, Joyce Elliott, Marion & Jack Wilson, Deborah Taylor and Councillor Claire Spencer.
2. MINUTES of the last AGM held on 15th May 2014 were taken as read and agreed, on a motion put by John Rouse and seconded by Helen Minovi.
3. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS.

The Annual Review containing reports of the different aspects of the Society's work had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Geoff Rees went through each report, introducing the people who had been particularly involved in its production. A paper proposing a new way of managing the business of the Society, by setting up five working sub-committees, had been circulated at the meeting and Geoff Rees introduced the people already involved with each sub-committee. The groups are already established and taking the lead to manage the Society's response to:

 - planning and licensing;
 - marketing, news & membership;
 - dovecote & icehouse;
 - programme;
 - Moseley history.

Geoff said that he hoped more members would join the sub-committees to strengthen the Society's level of activities. He said that during the next year the Committee intended to identify ways in which the Society's constitution should be changed to better represent this new way of working, and that a revised constitution will be recommended at the AGM in 2016.

There were no questions about the reports. The reports and the new system of sub-committees were approved on a motion put by Michael Marlow and seconded by Ray Tier.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS.

Copies of the full report and accounts to 31 December 2014 had been circulated in advance by email and were made available in paper format at the meeting. David Taylor asked about the purpose of the restricted funds and Ray Tier explained that these had been raised by the Moseley History Group for projects, including research into the role played by Moseley people in WW1. Trevor Hocking asked about the uses envisaged for the reserves of £7,930, £6,262 of which are unrestricted. Fiona Adams said that the increase in the reserves was mainly due to the fairly recent increase in membership subscription levels. She added that since these accounts were prepared a legacy of £1,000 had been received from the estate of John Simmonite. She said that there were various items of expenditure being discussed – leaflets to guide walks through Moseley and

improvements at the dovecote garden. Helen Minovi added that a reserve was needed to provide for repairs to the dovecote and icehouse and Robert Orme said that it was also important to keep reserves in case The Society needed to take legal advice on a matter of planning law.

The accounts were adopted on a motion put by Helen Minovi seconded by Jean Gilkison and supported unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Geoff Rees said that three committee members had indicated that they wished to stand down – Anna Williams as Treasurer, Rosemary Turner and John Rouse. He introduced Phil Williams, a member for many years, and a chartered accountant, who had agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. In addition Ray Tier who chairs the Moseley History Group had agreed to become a trustee and committee member. Geoff said that all other committee members were prepared to continue in their roles in the next year pending the reorganisation envisaged in the new system of sub-committees.

With a proposal put by Michael Whinney, and seconded by George Macleod, the officers and committee were then elected unanimously.

The 2015/16 committee is

Helen Minovi (Co-Chair)
 Geoff Rees (Co-Chair)
 Phil Williams (Treasurer)
 Fiona Adams (Secretary)
 Roy Cockel
 John Dring
 Jean Gilkison
 Paul Lindley
 Mike Marlow
 Robert Orme
 Ray Tier
 John Underwood
 Sally Wright

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

6.1 Helen Minovi said that on behalf of the committee and the whole Society she wished to thank the three members standing down as trustees of the charity and committee members. She said that Rosemary Turner had served for many years. Although particularly associated with the dovecote garden she had had many other roles over the years – running the art competition, organising stalls and bringing flair to many aspects of the Society's activities.

She thanked Anna Williams in absentia for overseeing the Society's financial matters at a time when her full-time job at Birmingham Royal Ballet had become very demanding.

She thanked John Rouse for making a big impact on the way the Society organised itself, encouraging the rest of the committee to bring it up to date and 'keeping us on our toes'. She said that she was glad that John had agreed to continue as a member of the Marketing, News and Membership sub-committee.

Geoff Rees closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Chief Superintendent Richard Moore

Geoff Rees introduced the commander of East Birmingham LPU (Local Policing Unit) and said how grateful we were that he had agreed to talk to Society members at a time that is particularly challenging for all senior officers.

Chief Superintendent (Ch.S.) Moore said that he had been in his current role for eleven months, although he had served in East Birmingham LPU five years ago as a Chief Inspector. He said that the challenges posed by national austerity measures mean that this now feels like a completely new era of policing.

In 2010 with a budget of around £600m West Midlands Police (WMP) employed approximately 13,000 staff, including 1,000 community support officers. In 2015 there are approximately 10,000 staff members, and £120m has been saved from the budget.

He said that approximately 84% of the budget was spent on people and it was recognised that WMP had to become much more productive. The roles of all staff – front-line, head quarters and administrative – had been reviewed. All buildings were also subject to review. There have already been significant changes to the estate in Coventry and Walsall, while Lloyd House is being refurbished. It is owned by WMP and when the refurbished building reopens in 2016 police stations in Birmingham will close – Steelhouse Lane will definitely close, and other stations such as Digbeth are also under review. The on-going review of the estate will then consider the rest of the buildings in Birmingham.

He said that each police division used to have a separate telephone contact centre – now there are only two, one for 999 and the other for 101 calls. However they will be merged into one contact centre. There used to be twenty one centres for dispatchers – now there are five – there may in future be only one.

Despite the austerity measures that have already taken place, WMP has become more productive and levels of service have been maintained.

Austerity will continue for the next five years – another £130m has to be saved from budgets. The Chief Constable (C.C.) has been forthright and confident in his management of this. He has encouraged WMP to rise to the challenge of austerity by delivering a better service with less. Police officer numbers will need to be reduced to 5,500 over this period. The reductions may impact more severely on Police Community Support Officers and civilian staff and there may be some compulsory redundancies.

Ch.S. Moore said that over the last five years business consultants had been employed to support change and up-skill the organisation. In order to manage the further changes that are needed, WMP advertised and have appointed Accenture to provide business change support over the next five years. Accenture has a particularly strong record in managing changes in IT systems and will play a major role in modernising WMP's technology. This will support officers to remain on the frontline for longer and have immediate access to the information they need to be effective. The contract ensures that Accenture payments will be reduced if WMP

current performance levels are not maintained – they cannot walk away with full fees if the organisation is not performing in any area.

Ch.S. Moore went on to describe the three main components of policing in the West Midlands:

- **Response teams.** East Birmingham LPU response teams have already been united at Stechford, so there is no longer a response team based at Kings Heath. But in future there may be just three hubs providing response services for the force area. Some officers will become more specialist – for issues around children; domestic violence; missing persons; serious and organised crime. Shift arrangements should be altered so as to better fit resources to demand. The three hubs will have large geographical areas to cover but individual vehicles will focus on smaller, localised areas. Their vehicles will be fitted with better equipment to ensure they have the information they need and are directed to incidents efficiently through navigation technology.
- **Neighbourhood policing.** Ch.S. Moore assured the meeting that Neighbourhood Policing (NP) would still exist. He said that some Chief Constables, elsewhere in the country, had said they were not sure that they could sustain NP. However West Midlands recognises that communities need police officers they can trust and get to know. In another sense WMP cannot afford not to have NP. NP teams take demand out of the system by getting to know the most vulnerable members of society, those who create much of the demand for police services. Those same people are also likely to be the repeat victims or members of chaotic families and so if NP is removed, demand for police services will increase. So NP teams will remain and will include offender management teams.
- **Investigation Team.** This team will be centrally managed but locally based and will deal with lower level violent crime. To make the best use of their time work will have to be concentrated on the most troublesome/vulnerable people and families.

Ch.S. Moore said that police officers will no longer be available to deal with all the lowest level of local issues and this is why there is an emphasis on encouraging Street Watch groups. There are already twenty groups in East Birmingham LPU who work closely with NP officers.

Other changes will occur to **ICT**. The aim is to link up systems so that members of the public can track crimes on-line, and officers can carry devices that will give them information about who they are speaking to in real-time.

Public Service delivery in the city. Ch.S. Moore ended by saying that all public services across Birmingham are now working together more closely. Although officers had always known that the most problematic individuals and families were also known to social workers, children's centres, education and health, all these agencies are now working together much more closely. Birmingham really is leading the way to break down boundaries and the hope is that this might eventually result in changes at a national level to remove legislative and statutory barriers to joint working.

Questions and comments from the floor:

John Rouse revealed that he used to teach performance management to police officers and he was delighted to have heard what Ch.S. Moore had said – but will officers really change their behaviour?

Ch.S. Moore replied that former C.C. Paul Scott-Lee had started the change in the way WMP managed performance and C.C. Chris Sims has pushed this forward as he has realised how much performance management is feeding back and improving the quality of the services being delivered by officers.

Jean Gilkison said she had also found this a very impressive and heartening presentation but she wondered how officers could manage to treat everyone with equality and with sensitivity to cultural issues.

Ch.S. Moore replied that during his time in WMP a much more inclusive approach had been developed and recruitment also reflects this. However there are inherent problems and reticence from other cultures. Also not all cultures value policing as a profession and so do not encourage their members to apply to join WMP. He also said that there had been real change to the way stop and search was operated. However it is widely recognised that the most deprived communities get the worst public services – in health, education etc so constant effort is needed to redress this.

Izzy Knowles asked about changes that had already happened to merge Neighbourhood Policing teams in South Birmingham LPU, where she used to lead a NP team. She instanced the good work done by Moseley Community Alcohol Partnership and hoped that in East Birmingham NP teams would indeed be protected.

Ch.S. Moore replied that there had been some short term changes in South Birmingham but that these were temporary measures. He said that NP teams might have to lose some staff members but there are no low-priority areas in East Birmingham that can do without NP. He said that the arrangements in Moseley, with its night-time economy, work well for the police and the site in Woodbridge Road also works well for them. He could not say anything definite about the future of Kings Heath Police station.

Fiona Adams passed on apologies from **Cllr Claire Spencer** who had hoped to attend and to ask further questions about future plans.

Ch.S. Moore replied that he always looked forward to Cllr Spencer's questions.

Andrene Miller of Moseley B13 Magazine pointed out that there was always the possibility of particularly vulnerable people falling through the cracks and how could he try to prevent this.

Ch.S. Moore replied that every recent report of an inquiry into the death of a child contained the same criticism about the problems public agencies have in sharing information. He said that from now on, in relation to child safeguarding, the formal structure leads to information being shared. So for police officers this means that if

an officer is concerned, even if there is no action that can be taken, the concern is shared. Then, if other professionals also share concerns, this information can be pooled. He told Andrene that the buck stopped with public sector agencies.

Trevor Hocking agreed with others that we had listened to a very impressive response on behalf of WMP to current austerity measures, but he was concerned about cuts and changes to the Probation Service, about which the news is very alarming.

Ch.S. Moore replied that the police partnership with Probation is critical. He described changes currently under way to move some lower level probation functions to the Community Rehabilitation Company with Probation Officers dealing with more serious criminals. He said that Probation Officers remained very valued members of his team, although they had had to suffer very serious cuts to their services.

John Rouse said he did not care for so much credit for reforms to be given to austerity and that the lack of trained social workers and their very low morale was of great concern to him.

Ch.S. Moore replied that he would be prepared to say when enough was enough.

Daniel Pollitt said that he greatly admired Ch.S. Moore's enthusiasm, but wondered, based on his own professional experience in a large local business, how he would inspire the people who would have to implement all the changes while still improving performance. How would he retain talent within the organisation?

Ch.S. Moore replied that it is his job to motivate his staff but that he could show them that WMP is continuing to get better and better. His staff members are responding to the new challenges and are well ahead of the game. East Birmingham LPU is as challenging an area as it is possible to find in the UK. There are critical levels of vulnerability, of organised crime, and a constant need to prevent violent extremism. And yet his officers continued to rise to the challenge and meet and improve performance targets, so he could continue to encourage them to continue in this mode. He said that new ways of working kept being found – for example working closely with HMRC to tackle organised crime.

Chief Superintendent Moore was warmly thanked for his presentation and his answers to questions.