

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023, 7.30 p.m.
at Moseley Exchange.

Helen Minovi welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was the 44th annual meeting of The Society.

There were 32 members present. The AGM began at 7.35 pm.

1. APOLOGIES had been received from Phil & Jane Williams, Jean Gilkison, Gill McGillivray, Angela Crawshaw, Anne Gilbert, David Whittingham, Veronica Bradney, Fiona & Peter Tyson, Liz Rasheed, Geoff & Angie Barnbrook, Esther Boyd, Wendy Alabaster, Gill Binnie, Geraldine & Ken Fisher, Paul Mackney, David Sandison, Pat Franklin, Rachel Hinks, Rob Brown, David Taylor, Ann Bruton, Fiona Tait, Liz & Nigel Blakey, Julia Griffin, Sharon Wall, Jan Marlow, Kate Stocks and David Isgrove.

2. MINUTES of the last AGM held on 11 May 2022 had been circulated in advance and were available at the meeting. They were taken as read and agreed by all present.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS.
The Annual Review containing reports of the different aspects of the Society's work had been circulated in advance and was also available at the meeting. Thanking everyone involved, Helen said that she had counted twenty people named in the Review and she gave special thanks to them, and to others not individually named, including those who distribute newsletters. Helen said that she would like to defer questions about the legacies received during the year until later in the meeting for reasons that would become clear.
Fiona Adams said she would like to thank Carole McKeown and Bridget Langstaff from the planning sub-group who were present, as well as those who could not be at the meeting.
Sally Wright was thanked for producing the Review.
There were no questions and Elizabeth Southall thanked Sally and everyone involved for a beautifully presented document.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS.
Copies of the full report and accounts to 31 December 2022 had been circulated in advance and were available at the meeting. A report prepared by the Treasurer Phil Williams, including criteria for the use of legacies, was distributed. The criteria are:
"Specific legacies: If a sum has been designated for a specific purpose, with details and requirements set out in the donor's Will, the Trustees of The Society will attempt to implement the donor's wishes as closely as possible, providing they comply with the Objects of the charity. In the unlikely event of a sum being left to the Society for a purpose that conflicts with those Objects, the legacy would have to be refused.
General legacies: Sums left to The Society without any instructions from the donor will be used with two over-riding criteria in mind:
Use for the aspect of The Society's work that it is known was of most interest to the donor.

To find a way to use the legacy that will make a lasting difference to Moseley.”

Roger Woods commented that it was useful to have the list of objectives for the charity set out in the Report and Accounts.

There were no questions, and the report and accounts were adopted unanimously on a vote proposed by Mike Marlow and seconded by Diana Woods.

5. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

The agenda set out the information that this year Sally Wright, Phil Williams and Ray Tier are offering themselves for re-election.

Helen said that additional members willing to become involved in the work of The Society are needed. There is one Trustee vacancy and also opportunities to join as a co-opted member or to join one of the sub-groups.

Helen asked members to approve the re-election, and this was agreed unanimously.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

6.1 Lorna Brewster, CEO of Moseley Community Development Trust, was invited to address the meeting. She said that members would be aware of the close connection between the Society and the Development Trust because of the Society's active involvement in the establishment of the Trust more than 20 years ago. She said that in addition to the activities associated with the Post Office Building – the public meeting rooms, Birmingham's first co-working space and the offices to rent on the top floor – the Trust undertook other activities. Anji Page the Neighbourhood Outreach worker was employed to work with the people in Moseley who are homeless or vulnerably housed and she was able to make use of the Moseley Alternative Giving Campaign fund to help them. Rhiannon Simpson is the Moseley & Kings Heath Volunteer Co-ordinator. Expressing thanks to the hosts she saw amongst the members at the meeting, Lorna said that 'Moseley for Ukraine' now employs three part time workers to support the Ukrainian refugees housed in our area.

Lorna said that she hoped everyone was aware that since August 2021 the Trust had had the 'meanwhile use' of the old Pizza Express building – now known as Moseley Hive. There is now a long list of uses and events that have taken place in the former restaurant. These range from break dancing to the Moseley for Ukraine Drop-in, a range of arts events, the Moseley history group and a really wide range of drop-in events. It has been used by a more diverse and very different audience from the Exchange building. She said that she was able to let members present into the secret that tomorrow she is expecting to announce that Moseley CDT owns the building and that it will be a community asset in perpetuity. She asked members not to spread the news until the purchase was completed, but she was confident enough to tell the members present that this was about to happen.

Lorna said that the Trust hoped to involve a wide range of people to determine how to take maximum advantage of the possibilities that the building offers, but she hoped that local heritage would be an important feature. She said that from 5-8pm on Wednesday 17 May there would be an open-house celebration at the Hive to which everyone was invited.

Roger Woods asked how the purchase had been funded and Lorna said that the donation was from a trust that wished to remain anonymous.

Lorna said that at present only around two thirds of the building is in use. Fiona said that she hoped that it might become the base for the Moseley History Collection and that Graham Underhill's substantial legacy could be used to enable that purpose. The Committee had already agreed that because of the Underhill family's long connection to Moseley and his interest in the work of the History Group, his legacy should be used to secure a safe and accessible location for the Collection.

Mike Marlow asked if, as it had always been a commercial unit, could it be put to that use again?

Lorna said that 'hard-hat' sessions were being planned around different themes – access; sustainability; creative arts; heritage – and she hoped that many people would take part and that many different possibilities would be considered – including use by community-owned businesses. At these sessions participants would be able to look round the whole building.

Roger Woods said that he hoped the Trust would draw on local volunteers, including architects, to help draw up plans.

6.2 Diana Woods asked for more information about the legacies. Fiona said that it was hoped to use Graham Underhill's legacy to find a permanent home for the history collection, and also the many records that are currently in her house of the more recent past that cover the history of the Moseley since the Society's inception in 1979. Ray Tier said that the Collection includes objects that could be put on display. Helen said that it was likely that Terry Lovell's legacy would be used for work that needed to be done at the dovecote, providing that it would be for something significant and lasting. In response to a question from Mike Marlow it was confirmed that neither legacy had come with any instructions, and both had been a surprise.

6.3 Both Councillor Kerry Jenkins and Councillor Izzy Knowles were present and were thanked or being such hard-working, active and supportive Councillors for Moseley Ward.

6.4 Carol Miller said that there is a possibility for Moseley Village Station to be adopted by local volunteers and she hoped that there would soon be an opportunity to display information about this at the Hive and elsewhere.

John Newson thanked the committee and the sub-groups for their work. There was general excitement and much applause throughout the second part of the meeting as the news about the Hive was shared and all the volunteers and the Councillors thanked.

There were no further questions and Helen thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Refreshments were served.