

THE MARLOW SOCIETY
Registered Charity 262803

Minutes of 60th Annual General Meeting

Present

Sir Keith Stuart (President), Mr Martin Blunkell (Chairman), Mr Graham Fletcher (Hon. Treasurer), Mr George Lawrence (Hon. Secretary) and around thirty other Members of the Society met by Zoom digital conference at 7:30pm on Thursday 27th May 2021.

1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks

Martin Blunkell welcomed Members to the 60th AGM. After the official business, Members would have opportunity for informal discussions with the Society's executive.

The President of the Society Sir Keith Stuart was invited by the Chairman to take the meeting's chair for the formal business of AGM.

2 - Apologies

Apologies had been received by Hon Secretary from: Helen Belasco, Nigel Lanchbury and Alison Rae.

3 - Minutes of 59th AGM

The unadopted minutes of the 2019 AGM had been available on the website. No changes were suggested from the floor and the meeting was pleased to adopt the minutes as a correct record.

4 - Matters arising

The Executive Committee had notified no outstanding matters to raise and none were raised from the floor.

5 - Executive Committee's Report

The President noted that a report from the Committee's Chairman had been published in each of the *Newsletter* magazines since the last AGM, and that these along with the Trustees' Report for calendar year 2020 in the current edition fulfilled the reporting requirements of AGM.

The President asked for any questions. There being none, the meeting was pleased to unanimously adopt the Report.

6 - Annual Statement of Accounts

Hon Treasurer, Graham Fletcher, reported on the Society's Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 with the aid of slides. Copies of the summary accounts had been included in the Annual Review *Newsletter*.

Hon Treasurer noted that as the Society's gross income is less than £25,000 the Charities Act does not require an independent examination. However, as in previous years, Executive Committee had chosen to undertake the voluntary review. This review had kindly been overseen by Elizabeth Horton at Seymour Taylor Audit Limited. After Executive Committee approval, the Chairman and Hon Treasurer had signed-off the Accounts.

Hon Treasurer noted that the Society's website costs were again nil thanks to the continued support of Kelvin Warne.

On behalf of the Members of the Society, the Chairman will write to Elizabeth Horton to express our thanks to her for carrying out the examination of the accounting records.

The President proposed that the accounts be accepted. The meeting was pleased to agree this proposal.

7 - Election of Officers of the Society

The President advised that the three Officers of the Society had offered themselves for re-election:

Martin BLUNKELL *for Chairman*, Graham Fletcher *for Honorary Treasurer*,
George LAWRENCE *for Hon Secretary*

No other nominations had been received. The meeting was pleased to confirm these Officers.

8 - Election of an Executive Committee

The following seven members of the Society had been nominated and had indicated their willingness to serve on Executive Committee and so join unopposed for the next year:

Carole HOLME, Ray ISTED, Mike OVERALL, Richard PARKER, Keith RAY, Andrew WOOD,
Geoff WOOD

The meeting was pleased to confirm these Committee members.

9 - Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Messrs Seymour Taylor of High Wycombe have indicated willingness to continue as Independent Examiners of the Society's accounts. The work is very kindly carried out on a pro bono basis for the Society.

Hon Secretary proposed that Seymour Taylor be invited, in due course, to examine the 2021 accounts. The meeting was pleased to confirm the proposal.

Address by the President

The year 2020 had been extraordinary - one we would hope not to repeat. But the Society had not been in lockdown, and, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Chairman and the Executive team, much excellent work had been done. In summary, we had weathered the storm pretty well. The continued rise in membership, now over 670, showed how well the Society stands.

The President expressed the Society's particular thanks to Helen Belasco, who was retiring from the Executive after over 16 years of service. He also welcomed Janet Smith's acceptance of the invitation to become a Vice-President, which was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the President for chairing the AGM and for his closing remarks. Martin noted that planning matters are included in each *Newsletter* and provided updates on five current issues. He thanked Richard Parker and Geoff Wood for planning support.

Post AGM Discussion

There followed informal discussion. The topics covered the Society's approach to solar farm applications; the performance of the new unitary authority; the need for better bridge protection; a revised proposal for a one way traffic system in Marlow.

Martin Blunkell
Chairman

George Lawrence
Hon Secretary