

Northumberland & Newcastle Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018
Monday 11th June 2018 at 7pm

Present:

Mr & Mrs J Angus, Mr W Apedaile, Mr R Appleby, Dr & Mrs H A Armstrong, Mr R Baston, Mr A Burns, Mr & Mrs J Bolter, Mr CJ Bosanquet, Mrs C Chatfield, Mrs D Craig, Canon & Mrs P C Dodd, Mr R Dower, Ms J Edger, Mr CWM Fleming, Mr & Mrs A Gittins, Mr A Grant, Mr K Hammond, Mr & Mrs D Hide, Ms K Hodgson, Mr N Jenkins, Ms C Liddell, Ms A Lloyd, Revd J Mason, Mr J W Matthews, Mrs P Moorhead, Mr C Panther, Dr & Mrs A G Purves, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs J Salmon, Mr & Mrs B Stanley, Rt Revd Bishop Mark Tanner, Mrs F Thoburn, Mr I Thompson, Mr R Thorn QC, Mr & Mrs I Watson, Mr F White, Mr K Whitfield, Mr T Wickens.

Also in attendance was the President of the Society, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne, Cllr David Down, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs B Down.

Chairman: Canon PC Dodd

At 7.00pm Canon Dodd opened the AGM, welcomed those attending and gave thanks to Lord Ridley for his kind hospitality.

1. **Apologies for absence:** 31 names were placed before the Chairman.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM** held on 5 June 2017 were taken as read and signed by Canon Dodd as a true record.
3. **Report from the Honorary Treasurer Mrs F Thoburn and adoption of the 2017 accounts.**

The Treasurer gave a brief overview of the accounts, full and abbreviated copies of which were available at the meeting.

Income was £21,548 and expenditure £22,121. A much needed refurbishment of the office and investment in a new website accounted for increased expenditure. Overall, the accounts showed a deficit of £362, compared with last year's surplus of £3,201.

Funds held by the Society amount to £33,349 much of which has been placed in a Charities Ethical Investment fund.

Mrs D Craig asked whether the Society has Employers Liability Insurance? Mrs Thoburn said yes, there is an annual policy which also covers public liability.

On the proposal of Mrs V Armstrong and seconded by Miss K Hodgson, the accounts for 2017 were formally adopted.

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4. Annual Report from Chairman Dr Geoffrey Purves

The Chairman gave thanks to Lord Ridley for his ongoing hospitality in allowing us to use the Clock Room and to stroll in the beautiful grounds at Blagdon once again. He was delighted that the Lord Mayor, Cllr David Down had taken the time to attend.

The Chairman said that though the Society is stable in terms of membership numbers and finances, there is a great deal to do if the Society is to remain healthy and secure.

Succession planning, raising subscription levels, and continuing to implement cost effective systems are all required in the near future.

The Chairman thanked the Administrator and the Committees for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment.

Dr Purves also gave grateful thanks to the Sir James Knott Trust, WA Handley Trust and the Fenwick Charitable Settlement, all of whom continue to donate annually to the Society.

Dr Purves then asked for a short report from each of the Committees:

- Mrs Armstrong for the Events Committee
- Mrs Salmon for Northumberland Environmental Policy Group
- Mr Jenkins for the County and Editorial Committees
- Mr Matthews for the Tyneside Committee.

On the proposal of Mr R Dower and seconded by Mrs Dodd, the Chairman's and Committee reports were adopted.

All reports will be made available on the website.

5. Election of the Vice Presidents

New Vice Presidents:

On the proposal of Mrs V Armstrong and seconded by Mr R Dower, the Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle was elected.

On the proposal of Mr J Matthews and seconded by Mr T Wickens, the Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Suffragan Bishop of Berwick was elected.

The following Vice Presidents were unanimously re-elected:

Mr Peter Atkinson

Lord Beith

Mr Philip Deakin

Canon PC Dodd

Mr Robin Dower

Mr Douglas Hoblyn

The Duchess of Northumberland

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Sir Nigel Sherlock
Lord Shipley
Lord Stevens
Lord Vinson

Bishop Martin Wharton has now retired, and Canon Dodd gave thanks for Bishop Martin's contribution to the Society.

Mr Matthews asked whether all Vice Presidents had been contacted prior to the AGM? Mrs Salmon said a letter had been sent to all Vice Presidents, and all had replied indicating their willingness to stand again this year.

6. Election of Officers

On the proposal of Dr Armstrong and seconded by Mrs Dodd, Dr Purves was re-elected as Chairman.

On the proposal of Mrs Armstrong and seconded by Mr Matthews, Mr T Hedworth QC was re elected as Vice Chairman.

On the proposal of Mr Matthews and and seconded by Mrs J Robinson, Mrs F Thoburn was re elected as Honorary Treasurer.

7. Election of Committees

County Committee

On the proposal of Mr Jenkins and seconded by Mrs Armstrong, the following new members were elected:

Mrs A Lloyd
Mr S Lloyd
Mr J Railton

The following existing members were unanimously re elected:

Mr Nigel Jenkins - Chair
Mr Iain Elliott
Prof Richard Allsop

Mrs Suzanne Stanley is retiring and Canon Dodd gave thanks for her hard work and commitment.

Tyneside Committee

On the proposal of Mr Matthews and seconded by Mrs Robinson, the following new members were elected:

Mr T Wickens
Mr R Baston

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The following existing members were unanimously re elected:

Mr John Matthews
Mr Keith Whitfield
Mrs Judith Robinson
Mrs Jean Baty
Mr Alan Grant
Mr Bev Bagnall
Mr Tony Stephenson
Mr Len Netts
Mr Toby Hedworth
Mr Charles Fleming

Mr Matthews is standing down as Chair but remaining on the Committee.

Canon Dodd gave thanks for Mr Matthews's outstanding contribution to the Committee.

Mr Matthews gave thanks to Mr Grant who works tirelessly to scrutinise all planning applications prior to Committee meetings.

Northumberland Environmental Policy Group (NEPG)

On the proposal of Mrs Purves and seconded by Mrs Lloyd the following were re elected:

Mr Lester Sher - Chair
Mr Andrew Joicey
Mr David Biesterfield
Mr Martin Straker

Canon Dodd praised the work of the NEPG who have served the County so well. It was agreed that Dr Purves would write a formal letter of thanks.

Events committee

On the proposal of Mr T Wickens and seconded by Mrs R Dodd the following were re elected:

Mr Richard Appleby - Chair
Mr Bryan Stanley
Miss Elizabeth Bryson
Mrs Anne Havis
Mr Frank White

Management Committee

As set out in the Society's memorandum and articles of association, the Management Committee will comprise:

Elected Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees
Honorary Treasurer
Directors of the Society

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8. Election of Directors

As set out in the Society's memorandum and articles of association one third of the Directors shall retire. For the 2018 AGM Dr Purves retires and it was proposed by Mrs Armstrong and seconded by Mr Dower that he be re-elected and this was unanimously agreed by all present with no objections.

It was proposed by Dr Purves and seconded by Mr Stanley that the following Directors be re elected

Mr T Hedworth QC

Mrs V Armstrong

9. Any Other Business

Editorial Committee

Mr Jenkins said that the Editorial Committee will continue with Mr Jenkins as Chair, assisted by Mrs Stanley and Mrs Armstrong and with support from Mrs Salmon. It was agreed that the election of members to this Committee would be included as part of the formal proceedings at subsequent AGMs.

Cllr David Down, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Newcastle said that he was delighted to attend the AGM and thanked the Chairman for the invitation. He was very proud of the history and heritage of the city and the region, and hopes to join the Society as a paying member and to attend some events. He said he has established excellent links with civic leaders at Northumberland County Council and hoped to be able to assist the Society in the future.

The AGM 2018 was closed without any further questions.

The Bishop of Berwick, Mark Tanner then gave a talk about Holy Community Spaces.

Robin Dower gave thanks and presented Mark with malt whisky