

2014 Annual General Meeting

The fourth AGM was hosted by the Canterbury Society October 25th 2014

The AGM was attended by 56 people and 24 civic societies

1. Welcome

Jan Pahl (Canterbury Society) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Canterbury before handing over to Freddie Gick (Chair of Civic Voice). Freddie welcomed delegates and thanked Jan and the Canterbury Society for the generosity everyone had experienced during their tours of Canterbury the previous day and thank her and colleagues for all their efforts.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Doncaster Civic Trust, Hartlepool Civic Society, Bloomsbury Association, London Forum of Amenity Civic Societies, Scarborough Civic Society, Tynemouth Village Association and Wimborne Civic Society

3. Minutes of 2013 AGM, Liverpool

The minutes were proposed by the Coventry Society and seconded by Oxford Civic Society.

4. Chair's report

Freddie Gick introduced the trustees' report and accounts and reflected on the increasing impact of Civic Voice and the successful work undertaken by civic societies during the previous year. This was Freddie's first as chair of Civic Voice and he reflected on the changes in the organisation that he had introduced since he came on board but thanked everyone involved in Civic Voice since the start for giving the organisation such a strong base. Civic Voice's membership now numbers 270 civic societies with over 70,000 members supported by a staff of 2, Ian Harvey and Gill Roxborough. Freddie paid particular thanks to the trustees and staff for the support they have offered during her time as chair and president of Civic Voice, Griff Rhys Jones who, Freddie said is an unstinting advocate for Civic Voice and the civic movement. Finally, Freddie said that, above all, it was the commitment of the membership, of civic societies across the country that have brought the civic movement and Civic Voice to its present successful state and optimistic future and placed on record her thanks to all civic societies for their efforts and commitment. Freddie explained he would go into more detail on plans for the next few year during his address to the full convention.

5. Treasurer report - Martin Meredith - financial report

Martin Meredith introduced the 2013-2014 financial accounts by stating that Civic Voice does not just rely on the AGM to share financial results and that he often has questions from members throughout the year. He said he would welcome queries from any member at any time. Martin, with the aid of a power point presentation reviewing the actual accounts against budget and provided a breakdown of the main income and expenditure lines. Martin also presented a summary budget for 2014-2015 which showed the clear role that project funding will play in the growth of Civic Voice. He emphasised the importance of civic societies to continue to support Civic Voice if the members wanted a national organisation campaigning on its behalf. Martin made particular reference to that fact that membership subscriptions look a little odd due to the nature of our accounting year (May) whilst our membership year starts in April but that we have plans to change our accounting period to April to align them to. He also mentioned that money had been saved on staff costs following the loss of the Director post and

the loss of Sarah Spurrier whose project (Protect our Place) had come to an end. There had also been a small reduction in office costs following on from a move to a smaller office. He explained where savings can be made, he is always keen to make sure they happen. Martin explained that for the sakeness of time he would be happy to discuss any detailed question after the meeting but that he would be happy to take questions of a general natur.

- Peter Pickering queried whether the board had given consideration to reducing the membership fee and Martin responded by saying that this was an issue that an independent review had looked at earlier in the year and that the board do not plan to reduce the level of fee. A discussion then was had around finding other ways to raise the money to pay Civic Voice membership.
- The Guildford Society asked that given that so many societies are finding that their membership I aging/dropping because people are dying would the board give consideration to running a “join your civic society” campaign and think up projects that could help member diversify activities. Freddie Gick responded that the most successful societies seem to be ones that don’t only engage in planning activities but that they get involved in “civic action” projects. He said a campaign about joining your civic society could be something the board could explore.

Freddie thanked Martin for his time and effort in supporting the financial side of Civic Voice. Martin received a warm round of applause from the room.

6. Ratification of Annual report and accounts 2013-2014

Fleet and Church Crookham Society proposed and the Guildford Society seconded ratification of the trustees’ report and accounts for 2013-2014

7. Appointment of independent examiners

Hargreaves and Woods were proposed by Martin Meredith and seconded by the Oxford Civic Society.

8. Board elections – announcement of results

John Walker announced the results of the ballot for trustees to join the Board and welcomed Paul Bedwell (Sheffield Civic Trust) Freddie Gick (Cheltenham Civic Society), Joan Humble (Blackpool Civic Trust) and Roger Sutton (Malvern Civic Society) to the Board and thanked all those who had participated in the election.

9. Ratification of Chair and Treasurer

John Walker, Deputy Chair proposed ratification of Freddie Gick as Chair stating Freddie had lead the movement through an exciting twelve months with a clear commitment to the values of Civic Voice. This was seconded by the Canterbury Society Martin Meredith’s ratification as Treasure was also proposed by John Walker, who emphasised his hard working and dedicated approach to Civic Voice. This was seconded by Marple Civic Society

10. Any other business.

There was no further AGM business.

*Formally approved at the Sixth Annual AGM in Bristol on 24th October 2015. The minutes were proposed by the Oxford Society and seconded by **Marple Civic Society***