



**The Norwich Society**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday 16 April 2008**  
**At the Assembly House, Norwich.**

#### **1. WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT**

The Chairman of the Norwich Society, Dr Jeremy Taylor, welcomed the Society's President, the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Roy Blower, to the meeting and invited him to take the Chair. The Lord Mayor accepted his invitation.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

The Mayor read out apologies from 14 members, a further 2 from the floor.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2007 had been circulated before the meeting. **APPROVAL** of the minutes was proposed by Mrs Sue Torr and seconded by Mr Alec Hartley and was **AGREED** by the meeting. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

Dr Taylor reported on an active year with considerable positive change and important initiatives. **Large scale planning issues**, including the 2007 Joint Core Strategy Report which set out the expansion of population in the Norwich Area, had prompted the creation of a new sub-committee, **Strategic Planning and Transport** under the chairmanship of Mr Alec Hartley.

The biennial **Design Awards** (2007) organized by the Planning Appraisal Committee under Mr Richard Cocke encouraged high quality architecture for the City's future heritage.

At the Society's instigation, the **listing of City Hall** had been up graded to II\* status by English Heritage.

**Corporate Membership** had been increased and enhanced by networking events through the work of Mrs Frances Holmes. Society events had become more popular through the work of the Administrator. There had been a number of **publication** initiatives including a guide to the work of the sculptor *John Moray-Smith*, and a booklet on the Wensum River Parkway produced in conjunction with HEART. **Studies and reports** included the Environmental Audit "Taking the Long View", Mr Roger Last's analysis of "Public Sculpture in Norwich" and a resource for new members, a "Short Guide" to the history of the Society written by Mr Andy Anderson.

The renewal and regeneration of the **Website** by the Web Development Group has meant that information about the society as well as reports and current issues are now readily available on line.

The Chairman thanked all the **volunteers** who give so generously of their time, particularly the 40-plus committee members, the Now-and-Again Group, and the Chairmen of all the committees: Mr Richard Cocke of the Planning Appraisal Committee, Mrs Janet Ede of the Environment Committee, Mr Alec Hartley of the Strategic Planning and Transport Committee, Mr Geoff King of the former Transport Committee and Mrs Sue Torr of the Membership and Publicity Committee. He also thanked the Vice Chairman Mr Tim Townshend, the Treasurer Ms Kate Anetts, and the Administrator Ms Vicky Manthorpe.

#### **5. TREASURER'S STATEMENT**

Ms Anetts' main aim was to continue to **stabilise expenditure** while maintaining income. Despite increased membership, there had been a small operating deficit for the year. Net assets stood at £117,000 that was held in a COIF deposit account at a favourable rate. Membership subscriptions had risen because of work by the Membership and Publicity Committee and the Now-and-Again Group. Gift Aid and profits from Social events had made welcome contributions to the budget.

Expenditure on printing, stationery, postage and telephone were down, but computing and printing costs were up. Staff costs had also risen.

The Treasurer underlined the importance of **continuing membership campaigns** both to replace members who withdrew and to increase membership generally in order to keep pace with rising costs. **ADOPTION** of the accounts was proposed Mr Barry Howell, seconded by Mr Geoff King and **AGREED** by the meeting.

#### **6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

**The Lord Mayor** informed the meeting that Mr Tim Townshend would be succeeding Dr Taylor as Chairman. Mr Alec Hartley had been nominated as **Vice Chairman** by Dr Taylor and seconded by Mr Barry Howell.

Ms Kate Anetts had been nominated as **Treasurer** for two years by Mr Tim Townshend, and seconded by Mrs H R Harrison.

These two nominations were **APPROVED** by the membership.

There were 7 vacancies on the Executive Committee: Dr Cocke, Dr Taylor, Mrs Reed, Mr King and Mrs Torr are standing down; Mr Holmes and Mr Quinn had been co-opted.

There were 5 nominations:

Mrs Frances Holmes, nominated by Mrs Brenda Reed, seconded by Mrs Sue Torr.

Mr Rory Quinn proposed by Mr Mike Holmes, seconded by Mr Antony Beck.

Mr Antony Beck proposed by Mrs Sue Torr, seconded by Mrs Brenda Reed.

Mr Michael Holmes proposed by Ms Kate Anetts, seconded by Mr Antony Beck.

Mrs Mary Ash, proposed by Dr Richard Cocke, seconded by Mrs Janet Ede.

The Lord Mayor asked the membership to approve the election *en bloc*.

This was proposed by Mr Frank Tucker and seconded by Mr Andy Anderson. The membership **APPROVED** the nominations *en bloc*.

Mr Townshend gave a vote of thanks to Dr Taylor for his all his work as Chairman.

#### **7. ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS**

Ms Manthorpe presented the programme for 2008-9, which she had extended in response to growing demand. The focus was on walks in and around Norwich to increase awareness and knowledge of the Society's constituency. These included St Benedict's Street, Lost Pubs, Victorian Churches and Round the Castle Mound; the condition of the latter has been a subject of much concern to the Society this year. The tour of the UEA Campus was emblematic of increased contact between the NS and UEA, with several other projects in the pipeline. Excursions included a repeat of the Poppyland Tour, and visits to Aylsham, Hunstanton and Beccles.

The project of Local Listing had been delayed but would be starting early in the summer. The Now-and-Again Group would in future be organized by Mrs Margaret Jacob and Mrs Tam Woolsey-Brown. Ms Manthorpe thanked all the many volunteers who helped her in various ways throughout the year.

#### **8. AOB – None.**

#### **10. THANKS TO THE LORD MAYOR**

The Society's Chairman, Mr Tim Townshend, thanked the Lord Mayor for chairing the meeting.

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Following refreshments there was a talk by Mr Hugh Aldersey-Williams on *Vulgar Errors: Sir Thomas Browne as Science Communicator*.

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