

The Friends of St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st May 2019, at 7 pm in the Chapel

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Present at the Meeting: Adrian Parker, Richard Jarvis, Kate Parker, Elizabeth Pye, John Martin, Ray and Mary Wearden, Gwen Severin, Alison Croose, Peter Godden, Canon Robert Fayers.

2. Apologies were received from Mike and Diana Brindle, Richard Morley, Paul Richards, Nick Balaam, Paul Rose and John Baines.

3. The Minutes of the last AGM, of 6th June, 2018, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer circulated the accounts, in the form presented to the Charity Commission, which he explained were required to be 'reasonably accurate', and confirmed that they had been independently checked and verified.

Monies had been received into the Restricted Funds a/c from the reclamation of VAT on the costs of the re-erection of the Font Canopy, on the VAT portion of the payment for the restoration of the organ, and for the bills from Matthew Beesley, stone conservator, with regard to the ongoing investigation to the reredos. A further £5,216 had been set aside to cover further action by him and Polly Saltmarsh, painting conservator, for the same purpose. The Treasurer is assuming that the final cost of restoration of the reredos will be £20,000 to £25,000, including a contingency sum. However, grants cannot be sought until actual costs are known. He hoped to be able to report success in acquiring grants by June next year. All funds accrued from tins in the chapel and the bar takings are credited to the Restricted Fund, to allay future costs.

He repeated his frustration at the lack of action by the CCT in organising small works which we had agreed to pay for many months ago, such as the repair of the bell tower louvres, the pressing H & S work required on the raised sockets in the floor at the West end, the replacement of the toilet roll holders with a robust design, and the application of woodworm treatment throughout the pews and sanctuary.

Finally, he recommended the FSNC membership fee should be maintained at the same level as before. In response to a question from the floor he suggested current membership was about 85. In the absence of the membership secretary he did not have precise figures.

5. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman was pleased to report that the ongoing discussions with the Site Manager about storage in the chapel had been resolved by the use of better holding trolleys. The site behind the organ would now house the WNAA's exhibition boards, the KLFC's staging, round tables for hirers, plus chairs and tables for general use. An electrical contractor, Trevor Bramham, had been appointed. The Chairman noted that there was a need for the FSNC to differentiate their self-appointed task to improve and amend public facilities in the Chapel, and the CCT's responsibility in maintaining the actual structure of the building. Such differences had occurred when the CCT sought payment by FSNC for a steeplejack, which was for inspection of roofing lead and the exterior of the bell tower, and for new paint on the west doors, when the FSNC considered that after only 6 years of wear the differential deterioration of the paintwork should be a question for the original specification of the paint specialist contracted for the purpose. Wood worming work was again awaiting permission by the CCT.

A comment from the floor reported that the protracted inaction over the purchase of new light bulbs had resulted in members of the public complaining that they could not read the information leaflets. Frustration was expressed again over the inability for decisions to be made which could lead to the resolution of these minor, inexpensive irritants which would make the Chapel safer and more user-friendly.

6. **Bells interpretation.** The chairman reported that the CCT and the Friends had been asked if they would consider housing a 16th century bell, made in 1556, by Austen Brecker, in Lynn. It had come from St Mary the Virgin, Islington in the 1960s (before it became a CCT church) and had been allocated by the Diocese of Ely to Histon (Cambs.), who had never used it. The bell is too bulky for King's Lynn Museum to accommodate. It was agreed by the meeting to support a report to CCT that this would be a welcome addition to the information on Bells, and was a part of Lynn Heritage.

7. **Election of Officers for 2019-20.** Dr Paul Richards had resigned temporarily from the Committee, owing to the press of commitments elsewhere. The Committee members who were willing to stand were: Adrian Parker, Chairman, Richard Jarvis, Treasurer, John Martin, Nick Balaam, Elizabeth Pye, Malcolm Bailey, and Kate Parker. There being no other nominations, the foregoing were elected en bloc, proposed by Peter Godden and seconded by Ray Wearden and agreed by the meeting.

8. **Other business:** following discussion from the floor, regarding any means to bring the Stewards and the Friends together, it was proposed by Kate Parker and seconded by Elizabeth Pye that Ray Wearden be elected to the committee of FSNC : Agreed.

More use of social media was urged, as being a better medium for publicity. This is undoubtedly desirable, but the committee must turn to the skills in the Friends' membership to do this. Robert Fayers asked if there could be a working party to clean the south porch door. It was explained that the apparent dustiness on the surface was extremely resistant to efforts to remove it.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.05 hrs.