

THE BENSINGTON SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE BENSINGTONSOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Parish Hall at 7pm on Friday 28th February 2025

Presiding: Peter Clarke, Chairman

Attendance: 101 members attended the meeting, which represents a quorum.

The Annual Report, accounts and other documents relating to the various motions were distributed to members prior to the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was displayed on a PowerPoint presentation.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and was pleased to see that the attendance was high. He also asked members to note that the Society was in good order due to the work of the committee.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Kate Hart, Keith Tibbs, Ann and Dave Wright.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 1st March 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by George Verdon, seconded by Joan Weedon, and agreed nem con.

3. Annual Report:

The Annual Report for 2024 had been circulated in advance. It was received and noted by members at the meeting. The Chairman commented that we hoped that all agreed that the Society was in a very good position. He asked for questions on the Annual Report. None were returned.

4. Accounts:

The Treasurer's financial statement, balance sheet as of December 2024 and the income and expenditure statement for 2024 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

The approval of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Summary for the year 2024 was proposed by Janet Burt, seconded by David McGill and agreed.

5. Independent Examiner:

Peter Clarke formally thanked Heather Emerson for acting as the Independent Examiner for the accounts for the year ending December 2024. He advised the meeting that Heather Emerson was happy to continue as IE for 2025 and he asked members to agree to the Committee's recommendation that she be asked to do so again.

This was carried by a show of hands in favour.

At this point, the AGM continued, chaired by the current President George Verdon who thanked members of the outgoing committee and non-committee helpers for their work over the year.

6. Election of Officers and other Committee members:

A list of those duly proposed and seconded to serve as Officers and Committee Members for the coming year was displayed. Before agreeing to the proposals, members asked that those nominated stand to be identified. These were as follows:

Chairman - Fenella Galpin	Secretary – Ann Wright	Treasurer – Ken Blake
Membership Sec – David Rhys-Davies	Bar Manager – Sue Cooper	
Catering – Ann Dore	Talks – Fenella Galpin	History Group Liaison – John Marriott
Security Services Manager – Pete Eldridge	Committee – Frances Swan	

The agreement to elect those identified ‘en bloc’ was proposed by Mick Brown and seconded by Albert Bevan and was agreed nem con.

7. Election of President and Vice-President:

George Verdon, as retiring President thanked everybody for their support over his time as President. He said that it had been a privilege working for the Society in various roles over the years. He also expressed a vote of thanks to current chairman and a former President, Peter Clarke, whom he had worked alongside for the past 25 years.

The nominations for David McGill as President and John Tchighianoff for Vice-President were proposed by John Johnson and seconded by Peter Clarke and agreed.

At this point in the AGM, the retiring President (George Verdon) handed back to the retiring Chairman (Peter Clarke).

8. Vote of thanks to those retiring from office:

The current Chairman, Peter Clarke asked for a vote of thanks from Members to the following:

- a. Barbara Verdon who has retired from organising the raffles, which she has done for many years. She was given a bouquet of flowers by David McGill (President).
- a. John Tchighianoff who has retired from the position of Membership Secretary, which he has done for the past 7 years and in excess of the normal length of service. He was given a bottle of wine by David McGill (President).
- b. George Verdon who has retired from the position of President, which he has held for the required 3 years. However, members were asked to note that he had filled a number of different positions on the committee for many years. He was given a bottle of whiskey by David McGill (President).

All three thanked members for their support and commented that they had enjoyed their time in their positions and were pleased to be able to hand over the roles with the Society in good order.

Peter went on to thank all the Committee helpers, who are so necessary to keep the Society functioning efficiently and effectively.

9. Awards of Honorary Life Membership:

Members were asked to ratify life membership for the following members as recommended by the committee – George and Barbara Verdon, and John Tchighianoff. This was proposed by Frank Farquharson and seconded by Mick Brown and agreed. Certificates were issued to all three by Peter Clarke.

10. Charitable donations from raffle proceeds:

The Committee recommended that £190 each from the proceeds of the raffle should be sent to The Thames Valley Air Ambulance, The Millstream Centre and Maggie's Oxford.

There were no objections, and the recommendations were carried by a show of hands in favour.

11. Any Other Business:

Items had been requested by notification to the Secretary by 26th February – none were received.

12. Closing remarks:

The new President (David McGill) thanked the members for participating in the Annual General Meeting.

In particular, he thanked the retiring Chair of the Committee Peter Clarke for his time and service to the Society over many years. The President presented a gift to him of a bottle of wine and a certificate of Life Membership.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:30 pm and continued as normal with a talk by Peter Adamson entitled 'A Town Called Wallingford'.