

The Friends of the Moot Hall Organ

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 9th January 2018

Present: Patron -Lord Petre Trustees -Nigel Chapman, Mary Chapman, Ian Ray, Mike Hogg, Jennifer Perry and 12 members

Apologies for Absence: B Jenkin MP, A Grote, H Chuah, J Usher, S Lewis, A & E Blundell, J Hill, M Fairhead and E Hewitt

Minutes of AGM 3rd January 2017 These had been circulated and were agreed.

Chairman's Report: This had been circulated and is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: The verified accounts were presented to the meeting by the chairman, agreed and are attached to these minutes. The treasurer, Sally Pearce, had resigned, for family reasons, at the end of the financial year and was thanked for her work during the two years she had held the position. Appreciation was expressed to Roy Belsey of Colchester Borough Homes, who had verified the accounts for us.

The chairman mentioned the paper, that had been circulated to all members and to all those attending the December recital, that set out the funding position of the Recitals. He outlined the desire of the trustees to maintain the original concept that the recitals would be free and their high standard should be maintained. He believed that the financial support of the audiences and the possibilities of sponsorship should enable the recitals to be self-supporting into the future.

Confirmation of Patrons: Ashley Grote, Hon Bernard Jenkin MP, Mayor of Colchester (ex-officio), Lord Petre, Desmond Pye, Will Quince MP and Sir Bob Russell were confirmed as Patrons.

The chairman thanked Lord Petre for agreeing to continue as a Patron and for his attendance at the AGM. He also mentioned Desmond Pye who had sent his good wishes when the Secretary met him at the Hospital!

Appointment of Trustees: Allan Blundell, Mary Chapman, Cllr Nigel Chapman, Cllr Mike Hogg, Hon Alderman Sonia Lewis, Jennifer Perry and Dr Ian Ray were all re-elected and Hon Alderman Ray Gamble and Dr Mike Vernon were elected.

Election of Officers: Chairman, Nigel Chapman and Secretary/Membership Secretary, Mary Chapman were re-elected. The vacancy for Treasurer was referred to the next meeting of the Trustees for consideration.

Future Plans: Ian Ray said that the lunchtime recitals were continuing very successfully and the day had been changed to the second Tuesday as he was hoping to encourage more schools to take part and this was more conducive to their time table. Ian confirmed the chairman's comments in his Annual Report, that we should continue to offer the community the opportunity to experience the organ during the Heritage week-end in September and he would continue to pursue opportunities for public access to the organ. The chairman tantalised members by revealing plans for an unique event in the autumn!