

MINUTES OF FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT: Kate Ashton, Iris Briscoe, Janie Lilly, Rob McIntosh, Amanda McLellan, Loraine Newbold, Jenny Saunders, Alison Sorrell, Duncan Stoddart, Neville Tomlinson, Allan Walter, Cherril Wilson-Toft, Linda Widdows and Louise Lee, who joined a short while after the start of proceedings.

1. Alison Sorrell was in the chair for the meeting. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to attend and hoped that all would go smoothly, as this was the first ever AGM via Zoom
2. **APOLOGIES received from:** Patsy Beddoes, Jenny England, Dr Gill Goodwillie, Kim Fitzwarine-Smith, Bridget Jones, Jenny Jones, Helen Hickson-Booth, and Richard Lewis
3. **MINUTES OF LAST AGM – HELD 10 APRIL 2019** Everyone was asked if they had read the minutes of that meeting, which had been sent out via email with the Agenda. Everyone nodded that they had.
4. As no comments were raised, the minutes were voted on and were accepted unanimously.
5. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR** – Sent by email with the Agenda.
6. **REPORT FROM THE TREASURER WITH ATTACHED FINANCIAL INFORMATION** – Sent by email with the Agenda.
7. **REPORT FROM SECRETARY** – Sent by email with the Agenda.
8. Alison asked if everyone had read the reports from the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer along with the figures he submitted. She then asked if there were any questions. As there were no questions, Alison moved on to the next item.

At this point I wish to apologise, as there should have been a vote on the acceptance of the Reports. However, in my new role as Secretary I made an error when drafting the Agenda. To some degree this was mitigated by Kate Ashton, at the end of the AGM proceedings, when she asked whether or not the reports had been accepted and were there any comments. The only comment made at that point was by Cherril Wilson-Toft who commented that she liked what Iris Briscoe had said in her report.

9. **FORUM ORGANISATIONAL STATUS:** Alison reminded us of what being an Unincorporated Association is – that we offer services to our members only - and said we need to vote on whether or not to accept this change.
10. **VOTE ON NEW ORGANISATIONAL STATUS:** No comments were raised. The new status of Unincorporated Association was voted on and accepted unanimously.
11. **NEW CONSTITUTION:** Everyone was asked if they had read the new Constitution which had been sent out via email with the Agenda. Again, there were no comments on the new constitution.
12. **VOTE ON NEW CONSTITUTION:** It was accepted unanimously.
13. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP:** Alison commented that this had been a long time coming, but that now was probably an appropriate time to introduce it as we are now an organisation for Members Only.
14. **VOTE ON NEW LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP:** It was accepted unanimously.

15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EVENTS TEAM MEMBERS. Alison asked if there were any other nominations other than the ones submitted with the Agenda. There were no further nominations.

A vote was taken and the following people were voted into office:

CHAIR: Alison Sorrell – Proposed by Duncan Stoddart, Seconded by Debbie Palmer

TREASURER: Neville Tomlinson – Proposed by Alison Sorrell, Seconded by Linda Widdows

SECRETARY: Linda Widdows – Proposed by Iris Briscoe, Seconded by Kate Ashton

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Kate Ashton – Proposed by Janie Lilley, Seconded by Duncan Stoddart.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EVENTS TEAM:

Janie Lilley – Proposed by Linda Widdows, Seconded by Jenny England

Rob McIntosh – Proposed by Debbie Palmer, Seconded by Jenny England

Anna Harlow – Proposed by Neville Tomlinson, Seconded by Janie Lilley

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Alison gave a vote of thanks to all the retiring members of the Team. Thanking them for all the hard work they have put in during their time on the Forum Events Team and especially over the past very long year, due to the effects of the Pandemic.

Cherril thanked Iris for her time as secretary and Duncan and Neville for all their efforts in getting Forum set up as an Unincorporated Association. She also said she had sent a personal email to Neville thanking him for providing clarity on what Forum needed to do as an Unincorporated Association.

Rob commented that Debbie and Jenny also needed to be thanked, even though they could not be present this evening. He said that in more “normal” circumstances those leaving the Team would be presented with a bouquet of flowers, however, current circumstances made this difficult to do.

DATE OF NEXT AGM:

Alison said that we hope to hold the next AGM in April 2021, to try to get Forum “back on track”. Naturally, this depends on Covid-19. However, everyone will be notified as soon as we have a clear idea. She also said that minutes of this AGM will be emailed out to attendees as soon as possible and they will be put on the website once it has been updated to reflect the changes that have been voted on tonight.

Alison declared the meeting closed and invited everyone to participate in the Open Forum that was about to start.

These minutes were prepared by Linda Widdows

NOTE: Two or three people had to leave before the end of the Open Forum session.

At the end of this session, a Poll was taken to establish feelings and thoughts about further on-line meetings and possible content – this is how Rob McIntosh summarised the outcome of the Poll: