



London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

Promoting London's unique heritage and historic environment

Minutes of the 165th LAMAS Annual General Meeting 16th February 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national lock-down the LAMAS AGM was held via the Zoom online platform. We are therefore authorising ourselves to meet and make decisions virtually. All motions of the meeting will be deemed as accepted by members unless they wish to abstain or vote against, which they are invited to do via the Chat Box in Zoom. The majority decision will be carried.

Panellists: President: Gillian Tindall; Chair: Harvey Sheldon, (HS) Hon Secretary: Karen Thomas (KT - taking minutes), Treasurer: Malcolm Mac Lellan (MM); Facilitators: Luisa Duarte, Jane Sidell; Proposed Council Members: Richard Gilpin, Stephen Gill

Approximately 45 members attended

1. Apologies: Stephanie Ostrich

2. Minutes of AGM 11th February 2020: The Minutes of the previous AGM had been made available to members via the LAMAS website. No corrections or comments were received. Minutes were seconded by Richard Gilpin.

There were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Annual Report and Accounts:

Annual Report: The Annual Report had been made available to members before the meeting via the LAMAS website. KT commented that the last year had started like any other but from March a completely unexpected pandemic had meant the Society had to cancel conferences, lectures and lates and we would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding while this was happening. We had all also been shifted out of our comfort zones as work, schooling and meetings had moved online but the Society, its various committees and many other local societies had carried on however they could because they and their members care about London's heritage.

HS spoke of the government's new planning proposals that went out for consultation towards the end of the last year and which would change the nature of planning and demolish the foundations of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. The current system provides for individual planning decisions to be made and many of the identified archaeological and built heritage sites in London are linked to that system. The new system divides the country into zones and 2 out of 3 of these zones provide zonal rights for developers which could see both the built and buried environment losing the protection currently afforded it. The Society's response to the consultation has asked that archaeological and built heritage recording be properly considered in any new proposals and the response in full appears in the January 2021 Newsletter. However this develops, LAMAS and its Committees will need to work with other local societies to protect our historic environment both built and buried. Quoting the Reverend Thomas Hugo in his inaugural address to the Society in 1856 the 'utilitarian

ignorance and vandal brutality' of the authorities and the developers was consigning the past to 'the abyss of oblivion'. Finally, HS reiterated that our membership is our strength and invited any non-members present to join the Society.

Accounts: Unfortunately, on the night, MM had technical issues with his computer and the meeting could not hear him. The Annual Accounts had been made available to members prior to the meeting via the LAMAS website. It was noted that membership subscriptions were down which was partly due to the pandemic and people needing to reassess their outgoings. One member present said they had not been reminded that their subscription was due and it was pointed out that the renewal notice was now included in the September Newsletter rather than being a separate piece of paper. It was not really cost effective or practical for the Society to send out individual reminders to members which was why it was now included in the body of the Newsletter instead. However, reference could be specifically made to subscriptions in the email accompanying the electronic Newsletter in the future. Several members had spotted errors in the Accounts or requested some clarification and with MM not being able to easily respond it was difficult to continue presenting the Accounts. Two members spoke against adoption of the Accounts in their current state. It also emerged that the Accounts had not yet been officially examined so it was decided to pass a resolution to split the Accounts from the Annual Report and accept them subject to satisfactory examination by the Independent Examiner and approval by Council. The AGM would be recalled if the examination was unsatisfactory. HS proposed this action which was seconded by Pat Clarke and it was agreed that the outcome of the Examination will be shared with members via email and on the website.

4. Election of Officers and Members of Council: HS thanked the Officers of Council and the Committees for their work during a difficult year:

The following Officers were proposed for re-election

Chair: Harvey Sheldon
Hon. Treasurer: Malcolm Mac Lellan
Hon. Secretary: Karen Thomas

HS then thanked the Council members for all their hard work including Richard Ward and Fiz Chattin who were standing down from Council this year. Also, he thanked Richard Gilpin who was retiring soon as Editor of the Newsletter but who had agreed to join Council as an ordinary member.

It was agreed that the following members of Council be elected *en bloc*; all were proposed for re-election by Council

Barney Sloane
Jane Sidell
Kathryn Stubbs (Lectures)
Stuart Forbes
John Price
Luisa Duarte (Publicity)
Stephanie Ostrich
Lucie Altenburg
Leanne O'Boyle
Niamh Carty

The re-election of the Officers and Council members was seconded by Chris Constable and all were unanimously elected.

HS then invited the proposed two new Council members below to introduce themselves:

Richard Gilpin
Stephen Gill

Richard had started his involvement with the Society on the Local History Committee and for the last 7 years had been editing the Newsletter, making him an *ex officio* Council member. He was very happy to continue his involvement as an ordinary Council member

Stephen has been a member of LAMAS since 2017 and on the Historic Building and Conservation Committee since 2018, with a specific role looking at planning applications in the City and Westminster. He has been watching closely the government's planning proposals, together with the Mayor of London's new London Strategy to 2038 and the various local plans, all of which could be detrimental to London's built heritage, and he is offering his services to become involved in the Society's response to these proposals.

Joanna Clark and John Hinshelwood seconded Richard and Stephen's nominations. All the Officers and Council members were unanimously elected.

5. Appointment of Auditor(s): HS thanked Hazel Thomas for taking on the role of Independent Examiner and proposed her to continue in the role for the coming year.

Hazel's appointment was seconded by Luisa Duarte.

6. Any other business:

There was no other business so HS declared the AGM closed.

HS then introduced Gillian Tindall who gave her first Presidential address '**The Long History of Conservation**'