



THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE MINUTES of Annual General Meeting for 2020

Saturday 16th May 2020
Held Online via Zoom during Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown.

Council members present: Rev R Allaway (Chairman)
 Rev J D Buxton (Hon. Treasurer)
 Dr A P Kerry (Hon. Secretary)
 Mrs J Mead

An uncertain number of members attended this online Symposium, ten remained for the AGM

OPENING Rev. R Allaway welcomed members to the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Copies of the minutes of the 2019 AGM were made available and had previously been published in F&T no. 67. These were approved and the minutes were signed.

ELECTION The meeting agreed to the re-election of:

- a) **President** (Sir Colin Humphreys),
- b) **Vice-Presidents** (Prof. Malcolm A. Jeeves, Prof. Kenneth Kitchen, Prof. Alan Millard, Prof. J. W. Montgomery)
- c) **Honorary Treasurer** (Rev. John Buxton)
- d) **Council** Rev. Bob Allaway, Rev. John Buxton, Dr. Alan Kerry, Mrs Joanne Mead and Prof. Meric Srokosz (ex officio) as Council members for a further three years.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS The annual accounts were presented by John Buxton. A summary sheet was available on the website, and the full accounts are available for members by request. The balance sheet shows an end of year balance of £121,022. The shares have obviously devalued as a result of the Coronavirus crisis, losing about £33,000 in value since January, but this may recover in due course.

An extraordinary item of income was a £4664 transfer of cash from sale of shares, used to award an academic grant of £1000, and also a donation to Messy Church does Science of £3000.

- The financial situation is satisfactory.
- The accounts were accepted.
- Jean M Gill Book-keeping Services were approved as independent examiners.
- The treasurer was thanked for the time he devotes to these matters.

ACADEMIC GRANT AWARD The Council recommended the award of an academic grant to an applicant who is studying for a PhD on 'General revelation and the common grace of God: their place in a Christian theology of religions'. This was agreed by those present.

CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES Alan Kerry explained that as a registered charity we are required to comply with Charity Commission regulations. In the current year the Charity Commission raised a few more questions following the submission of accounts. It was felt that the constitution needed some minor amendments to bring this into line with current expectations. This has been agreed by Council, and made available to members on the website, and they have been notified by email of the changes. The main changes are:

- Change of name, to include 'Faith and Thought' or 'Faith & Thought'
- Amend language, so that we are now an institution for 'men and women' of science, not just men as previously.

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- Minor adjustment to the activities of the charity to better reflect our current activities
- To define the Council members as being the Trustees of the charity
- Quorum requirement for Council meetings changed from 'four' to 'sixty-percent'
- The accounts will be independently examined each year (not necessarily 'audited')

Alongside this the Council has approved the adoption of a new Finance and Probity policy.

The meeting agreed these changes.

ANNOUNCEMENT The meeting was sad to have learned of the death from COVID-19 of our former president Sir John Houghton on 15th April 2020. The meeting prayed for his widow Sheila and family.

SYMPOSIUM 2021 We are planning our next symposium to consider the subject 'Innovations in Doing Church'. It would be good to include female speakers as this year's symposium line-up was all male.

CLOSE The chairman closed the meeting.

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