**THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE**

MINUTES of Annual General Meeting for 2022

Thursday 26th May 2022

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

Rev Dr Sally Nelson

22 individuals attended the May 2022 Open Lecture. 14 members 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 2021 AGM were available on the website. These were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman. |
| **ACADEMIC GRANT** | Details of an academic grant application had been received and considered by the council who supported the application and asked the AGM to approve the awarding of the grant of £1000. The subject is ‘An Analysis of William Lane Craig’s Argument for Divine Temporality.’  The applicant (Dr David Watkis) is also prepared to stand as Council member (see below) but it was stressed that these two matters were being dealt with entirely separately and without prejudice. The proposed grant award was unanimously approved. |
| **ELECTION** | The meeting agreed to the re-election of:   1. **President** (Sir Colin Humphreys), 2. **Vice-Presidents** (Prof. Malcolm A. Jeeves, Prof. Kenneth Kitchen, Prof. Alan Millard, Prof. J. W. Montgomery) 3. **Honorary Treasurer** (Rev. John Buxton is willing to serve to the end of the current financial year. Mr Andrew Dipper has kindly offered to assist and John will arrange to hand over to him) 4. **Council** Rev. Bob Allaway, Rev. John Buxton, Dr Alan Kerry, Mrs Joanne Mead, Rev. Dr Sally Nelson and Prof. Meric Srokosz (ex officio) as Council members for a further three years. 5. Council were pleased to announce that Rev. Dr David Instone-Brewer and Dr David E. Watkis were prepared to join Faith & Thought Council. It was proposed that each should hereby be elected as a Council Members and Trustees and they were both individually approved by the meeting. 6. The meeting also agreed that once he has relinquished the role of treasurer, John Buxton should be approved to continue to serve on Council as trustee. |
| **AMEND CONSTITUTION** | Members had been notified in advance of a proposed change to the constitution to enable online / hybid (online and in-person) meetings for Council and AGM in future (available on the website). It was noted that we were already doing this for this meeting, as had been necessitated during COVID-19 lockdowns but the charity commission’s flexible approach during the COVID-19 period came to an end on 22nd April 2022 so to continue to do this requires a change to the constitution. The proposed change was to add Clause 7 regarding meetings (see updated document online) and to delete the redundant ‘Notes’ section at the end of the constitution was unanimously agreed. Alan will contact the Charity Commission to update these changes. |
| **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS** | The annual accounts were presented by John Buxton explained that due to unforeseen circumstances, the annual accounts for 2021 have not yet been finally examined. He provided the latest version which were tabled for approval subject to examination (also available on the website prior to the meeting). This was agreed  The year-end deficit is £519.5, the end of year cash balance is £9,569.8.  The share valuations total £115,734  John has served as our treasurer for 17 years and was thanked for his long and valuable service. He will arrange handover to Andy Dipper as ‘finance assistant’ while we continue to look for a longer term replacement treasurer.  The financial situation is satisfactory.  The accounts were accepted subject to final examination  Margaret Pratt was approved as independent examiner for the accounts |
| **PLANS for 2022-2023** | Alan was pleased to announce the second lecture for 2022 on our theme of ‘Doing God Online’ will be by Dr Eric Stoddart from St Andrews University who will speak on ‘The Internet Gaze’. This will be an online event on Monday 14th November at 7:00pm.  He briefly reported on the responses to a recent questionnaire regarding the future of Faith & Thought, and explained that Council has planned an additional ‘Strategy Meeting’ for 7th July (7:30pm via Zoom) to discuss this further with regards to practical planning for future symposia / lectures and the emphasis of the organisation on science and faith, or covering wider matters of philosophy and sociology.  For 2023, Council are considering the theme of ‘A Good Death’ for lectures / symposium. |
| **CLOSE** | The Chairman closed the meeting in prayer and invited all present to say ‘the Grace ...’ together. |