

ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY
Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting
as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
held at 2pm on 2nd April 2022 in The St Alban's Centre London EC1N 7RD

The Chair of the Ecclesiastical Law Society Elizabeth Wilson greeted everyone and commented:

That it was especially joyful to meet face to face for the AGM this year and that the meeting was, once again, within the Day Conference. She welcomed members to the meeting and said that non-members were welcome but that, should there be a vote, they were not able to participate. She expressed thanks to those who had planned the conference and meeting today, especially the planning group and the executive team.

The Chair announced that the meeting was quorate. She said that the Trustees had decided that next year's conference would, once again, be just for a day and that it was hoped to plan a residential for 2024. This decision had been made in the light of remaining hesitation about travel and gathering in the uncertainties surrounding Covid. She asked that those present call to mind members of the Society and others who had died in the past year, those who were still suffering as a result of the pandemic (and other illnesses), other individuals who were in need of prayer, together with their friends and families. After a short period of silent prayer, the executive secretary concluded our remembrance with a prayer.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Louise Connacher, Paul Hutchinson, Frank Cranmer, Ian E. Baird, Norman Boakes, Frances Godden, Timothy Clarke, Paul Barber, Mark Ireland, Chris Atkinson, Lionel Lennox, Moses Cheng, Gerard O'Neill, David Zwifka, Mark Hill and Lee Coley

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 20th March 2021 were approved as drafted.

3. Trustees' Annual Report

Introducing the Report, the Chairman commented that the Trustees had begun to streamline the administration of the Society by the appointment of an executive team comprising John Ford as executive secretary, Stephen Hogg as finance officer and Russell Dewhurst as communications officer. The team were working well and supporting her in her new ministry as Chair in succession to Mark Hill.

Elizabeth wanted the meeting to note that work was still being done to renew the database so that it can make for easier membership renewals. Arising from this, she had received a request from a member for a copy of our membership list with the suggestion that this might be shared, possibly on the member's section of the website. It was not clear that this would accord with our privacy policy; the Trustees will, however, look into the question.

The Trustees' Annual Report was duly received.

4. Statement of Accounts & Treasurer's Report

These items were duly received.

The Chair thanked Darren Oliver for his seven years of service as Treasurer. She said that meetings would miss his calm and gentle presence and that his wisdom has always added value. She wished him well in his new responsibilities and presented him with a token gift in recognition of his service.

5. Election of the Treasurer of the Society

The Rev'd Paul Benfield was duly elected as Treasurer.

6. Election of a Vice-Chairman of the Society.

The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner was duly elected as Vice Chair.

The Chair thanked the outgoing vice chair, Bishop Stephen Conway, for his time in office and said how much people were looking forward to his lecture later in the year.

7. Election of five Charity Trustees

As there had been five nominations, the following were declared elected to serve as Charity Trustees for the next three years: Ruth Arlow, Moira Astin, Frances Godden, Paul Barber and Stephen Coleman

8. Report from the Editor of the Journal

The Report was duly received and Ben Harrison thanked for his work as editor.

9. Any other business

Bishop Colin Buchanan had asked to speak. The Chair introduced him saying that he had submitted a draft resolution for the AGM concerning the use of STV in our elections. As this was to be considered by the Trustees in connection with a review of the Constitution, he had withdrawn the resolution and been asked to outline to the meeting his views on the subject. He told the meeting that, in his view, the use of STV resulted in better representation than the first passed the post system. He reminded members that the synodical elections were all conducted using a version of STV. Bishop Colin will produce a paper to aid the Trustees in their deliberation.

President congratulated both the Chair and all members present for the brevity and efficiency of the meeting. He wished to record thanks to the Trustees, the Standing Committee and all the Working Parties for the considerable work undertaken in the past year. He informed the meeting that there would be a memorial service for Dr Frank Robson in June. Further details of which will be sent to all members during the following week.

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm