

**ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation**  
**held at 2.05pm on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at St Peter's Eaton Square London SW1W 9AL**

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The Chair of the Ecclesiastical Law Society Elizabeth Wilson greeted everyone and said: That she was delighted to welcome everyone to the meeting, members and guests alike, but that only members would be able to vote. She expressed her gratitude to all the Trustees for their service in the past year and thanked the executive team for the way that they enabled the Society to function professionally.

The Trustees were having a strategy day in November to plan the next phase of the life of the Society and she asked the meeting to note that, in the light of a number of factors especially as would be clear from the Report from the Editor of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal, memberships rates would have to be reviewed before next year's renewal.

Future Conferences had been planned. There will be another day conference in 2024 with the title, 'The Law of Doctrine and Liturgy in the Church of England: Dead or Alive'? and a longer conference will be held in Chichester from 20 – 22 June 2025. As that year is the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea the theme of the conference will address the ongoing importance of the Creed and Canons of that Council for the life of the Church today. It was with great pleasure that the Trustees were able to report that we had secured His All Holiness, Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, the New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch as the keynote speaker.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 25 members.

### **2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 were approved as drafted.

### **3. Trustees' Annual Report**

Introducing the Report, the Chairman reported that a new contract had been agreed with CUP for publication of the Journal and this had been very time consuming and sensitive. She thanked Ben Harrison and Stephen Hogg for leading the negotiations on behalf of the Trustees. She recorded her thanks to Ben as Editor and Mark Hill as consultant editor of this flagship of the Society.

The Chair and Trustees were very pleased with the new work in some of the training institutions of the Church of England. Russell Dewhurst and Stephen Coleman had been engaged in a number of colleges teaching an introduction to canon law and they were thanked for this extension of our work in education and training. She thanked Frances Godden for her efforts as editor of the Newsletter, the training sub-committee and the executive team for their work.

The Trustees' Annual Report was duly received.

#### **4. Statement of Accounts & Treasurer's Report**

These items were duly presented by the Treasurer who said that the finance officer would answer questions. There were none and the Accounts and Report were received.

#### **5. Election of Charity Trustees**

The Rev'd Christopher Smith was the only nomination received and he was duly elected for a term of three years.

#### **6. Report from the Editor of the Journal**

The Report was presented by the editor who recorded his thanks to the section editors, commented that the new contract with CUP allowed for a printed Journal for the next five years, asked for feedback about the changes outlined in the Report and said that it was a privilege to edit the Journal. In response to a question, Ben said that he was always looking at ways to broaden the scope of articles and that any submitted would be considered in the usual way.

#### **7. Changes to the Constitution**

The Chair proposed and the President seconded that:

the constitution of the CIO be amended as set out in the note to the Agenda:

In Clause 8 (1)(b) the words "or working group" be deleted

In Clause 12(6)(f) after the word "cast" insert, "or in the case of Clause (d)(ii) or (d)(iii) above according to the direction of the chair of the meeting."

In Clause 13:

In (3)(a)(i) delete "and"

In (3)(a)(ii) delete "eight" and insert "six"

At the beginning of (b) insert, "The final decision concerning the total number of vacancies for elected Charity Trustees for any period is entirely at the discretion of the Charity Trustees for the time being in post, within the limits given at (a)(ii)"

In Clause 14 (1):

Insert as new sub-clause (b):

"On subsequent occasions the Officers shall retire from office at the end of the third AGM after their election."

Re-letter (b) as (c) and within new sub-clause (c):

Delete "at that and every subsequent third annual general meeting the" and insert a full stop.

Capitalise "V" and insert after "arising" the words, "in the Officer positions"

At the end of the paragraph delete "concerned" and insert, "or other general meeting of the CIO."

In Clause 14(2)(d) in the first line delete "so" and insert after "annual general meeting" the words, "subject to any decisions of the Charity Trustees under Clause 3(b) above"

This was carried unanimously without debate.

#### **8. Any other business**

The President expressed thanks to the Chair and Trustees for all their work in the past year.

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm