

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Gosport Museum Thursday 5 May 2016

1. Apologies – Sydney Aynsworth, Jack Poole, Brenda Whiteley
2. The minutes of the AGM held on 7 May 2015 were proposed by Yvonne Riddell and seconded by Linda Hedley
3. Matters Arising – the minutes should read
 - i. That the screen for the Museum will be ‘commissioned by’ not ‘purchased by’ the Hampshire Cultural Trust
 - ii. Volunteers are needed for the Gallery
 - iii. We had three free tickets to talks at the Gosport Discovery Centre

4. Chairman’s Report – this was a compilation by the chairman and vice-chairman owing to the chairman’s illness: FoGM membership is steady and finances satisfactory. Six volunteers continue to help at Search and Jack Poole stewards at the Museum when he is available. Work in stores has continued where 3 members have been transcribing the diary of Martha Tottenham. Morning meetings have attracted about 6 members. In September Maggie Ventham helped the curator to show ‘Treasures from the Museum on the first 2015 Heritage Open Day. The Gosport Gallery remains at risk of closure owing to lack of volunteers. More are needed to keep this valuable Gosport asset open.

In March we said goodbye to Erica Munro, curator for SE Hants, when she moved to a new post at Bletchley Park. Her departure was followed by that of CELO Janet Wildman who has taken early retirement.

The future funding of the Trust, by HCC and partners such as GBC, will be reduced to about a third by 2020 in line with reductions in central government funding for local authorities. In its first full year of life the Cultural Trust has worked hard to maintain the standards we’ve come to expect, but the future of Arts, Museums and Galleries will depend on volunteers and increased support from donations, sponsorship and commercial enterprises. Sydney Aynsworth Chairman, Maggie Ventham Vice-Chairman

5. Secretary’s Report: there are a number of vacancies on the committee; anyone interested should contact the Secretary. Copies of the British Association of Friends of Museums newsletters are available online at www.bafm.co.uk or from the Secretary. Copies of the local BAFM are sent to the Secretary by email and sent on to members who have email – arrangements can be made for members who do not. Ian Jeffery Secretary

6. Treasurer’s Report for the financial year 01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016 Income £2468.50, expenditure £235.95. There is a balance of £2594.79 which is split between the Members Fund of £423.29 and the Project Fund of £2171.50. Audited accounts are not necessary as the group is too small. The report was proposed by Mary Duly, seconded by Yvonne Riddell vote was unanimously carried. David Moore Treasurer

7. Membership Secretary’s Report: there were 48 individual members at the end of the year, a drop from the 59 of the previous year. Four new members have joined in the last year. Linda Hedley Membership Secretary

8. Newsletter Editor's Report: there have been a few minor changes to the newsletter. Twenty newsletters to members were printed in May. Ten are printed for places such as libraries; from May one will go to the Tourist Information Office. All newsletters to BAFM, Councillors etc now go by email. The editor thanks everyone who has contributed to the newsletter. Ian Jeffery Newsletter Editor

9. Project Report: the funds are available to purchase the screen for the Museum but it is not known whether it was commissioned by the Curator before her departure despite attempts to find out. The Vice-Chairman signed an application for a Heritage Lottery Grant in the autumn of 2015 on behalf of FoGM. The proposed project was to support 'Gosport's Hidden High Street' exhibition through the Ashcroft Arts Centre at Fareham. The project would have involved the Young Roots Scheme which encourages the next generation to appreciate culture. It is not certain whether this will still go ahead. Members will be asked to steward the Museum on 8 September, the first day of the Gosport Heritage Open Days.
Maggie Ventham

10. Election of Officers & Committee Membership

The President, Bob Whiteley gave thanks to Maggie for the wonderful job she had done towards the Museum collections, the projects and the sale of Joan Russell's books. He was very pleased to see that Joan Russell was present at the meeting.

The nominations for officers and membership were elected on block, proposed by Sylvia Webb and seconded by Ann Lane

Chairman – Sydney Aynsworth
Vice Chairman – Margaret Ventham
Treasure – David Moore
Secretary – Ian Jeffery
Committee Secretary – Dot Bedenham
Membership Secretary – Linda Hedley
Newsletter Editor – Ian Jeffery

Committee

Mary Duly
Jack Poole
Yvonne Riddell

11. There was no Curator's Report

12. Mary Duly asked why there was no publicity for the exhibition about Gosport's High Street. Mary will inform the Gosport Society and suggests that members pass the word.

A fascinating talk about the Tottenham diary was given by Yvonne Riddell

Prepared by Dot Bedenham