



## THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Held on Tuesday 18 September 2019 at 7.00 pm, at De Beauvoir Block, 92-96 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 4EN

The AGM was followed by a tour, by architect Simon Henley of Henley Halebrown and Edward Benyon of the Benyon Estate, of De Beauvoir Block, a network of 33 workspaces, designed and equipped to support individuals and businesses in the creative industries. The complex was created for the Benyon Estate from a row of six early C20 industrial buildings. Small prefabricated studios, described by the architects as a 'landscape in microcosm' were constructed on the roof tops. Minimising heated circulation spaces this solution has provided highly insulated workspaces, benefitting from natural ventilation and an undisturbed view of neighbouring roofscapes..

Present: Trustees - Nick Perry, Lisa Shell, Julia Lafferty, Ray Blackburn, Monica Blake, Laurie Elks, Wendy Forrest, Tony Gillett; Independent Financial Examiner - Dave Harris; and circa 30 members.

| Agenda Items                                | Discussions and Decisions   |
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| 1. Apologies for Absence/ Announcement.     | Apologies were received from the following members: Joannie Andrews, Irene Stratton, Alexander Nicol, Elaine Burrows, Stephanie Claire Brann, David Pollock, David Voas, and Mary Cannon .  |
| 2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM                  | The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11 September 2018 were approved, the only correction being to record the year as 2018, not 2017 - proposed by Laurie Elks, and seconded by Wendy Forrest.   |
| 3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee | <p>Nick Perry, Chair of the Trustees, presented the report for the year ended 31 March 2019.</p> <p>He put out a plea for anyone with an interest in any area of the Society's work to come forward as a Trustee or alternatively as a volunteer on any specific item. Another way members can assist is by requesting to receive their copy of Spaces electronically, thus saving the cost of postage, although Spaces is hand delivered in many areas by our team of volunteer deliverers.</p> <p>Our events had always been well attended, and during the year, as agreed at the last AGM, we started to charge for events, £5 for members, £10 for non-members, which brings us closer to the amounts charged by commercial organisations.</p> <p>We reprinted <i>Hackney: portrait of a community 1967-2017</i> and it is still selling steadily. The new version of <i>Hackney Houses</i>, a guide to improvement, conservation and maintenance of late Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian houses, last renewed in 1982, remains on hold, and Trustees are thinking about what the best way to publish it would be.</p> <p>The website continues to be a problem, but upgrading it would be costly both in money terms and the time required for Trustees to devote to it. It does continue to hold comments from some of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committees.</p> <p>The Planning Sub-Group, with its several professional members, continues to scrutinise and comment upon planning applications of importance. Developers are</p> |

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|  | <p>asking to make presentations to them, and they are finding the sub-group useful in their discussions with their clients.</p> <p>Ray Blackburn and Laurie Elks then spoke about some future events: a talk on <i>Social Housing</i> on November 28 (a joint meeting with Friends of Hackney Archives) and a <i>Hackney Social</i> with readings from Hackney writers on December 17 at Sutton House.</p> <p>Monica Blake spoke about the Publications Group's proposed book on <i>Hackney Buildings of the 21st Century</i>, and asked for a volunteer to come forward to help to drive the project.</p> <p>The report was approved - proposed by Tony Gillett and seconded by Fiona Darbyshire.</p> |
| 4. Report of the Independent Financial Examiner for the year 2018/19 | <p>Tony Gillett spoke to the accounts, and explained that the reserves stood at £19,688, stable in relation to the previous year, and that over half of it relates to the stock of books that we hold. He thanked Dave for his continued assistance at no charge to the Society.</p> <p>Dave in turn thanked Tony and said that the exercise had gone smoothly.</p> <p>The accounts were approved - proposed by Nick Perry and seconded by Iain Bruce.</p>   |
| 5. Election of Independent Financial Examiner.                       | <p>Tony Gillett proposed that David be re-appointed as Independent Financial Examiner to the Society for the following year.</p> <p>Nick Perry seconded. The proposal was agreed unanimously.</p>  |
| 6. Election of Trustees  | <p>The existing Trustees are not required to stand for election this year. No other members had come forward.</p>  |
| 7. Any Other Business  | <p>From the floor Oliver Schick and Roger Blake spoke of their concerns about Transport for London's plans for respectively the Lea Bridge Roundabout area and the Stoke Newington gyratory, and urged Trustees and members to get involved in the consultations.</p> <p>Finally Colin Brooking proposed a vote of thanks in the work of the Trustees which was eagerly agreed.</p>  |