



THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

The Round Chapel
1d Glenarm Road
London, E5 0LY
Tel: 0207 7175 1967
E: info@hackneysociety.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 7pm, at the at St Mary-of-Eton Church, Eastway, London E9 5JA

The AGM was preceded by a tour of the of the Grade II* listed St Mary of Eton Church and the multi award-winning new buildings.

Agenda Items	Discussions and Decisions
1. Introduction/ Apologies for Absence.	Those Trustees present introduced themselves and explained the role they played within the Society, followed by the members present. Apologies were received from: Dave Harris (Independent Financial Examiner), Julia Lafferty, Kevin Moore, Rossana Tich (all Trustees) and Mary Sewell (member).
2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM	<p>The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 2 December 2014 were approved; proposed by Lisa Shell and seconded by Monica Blake.</p> <p>The Treasurer, Tony Gillett commented on item 4, where he had explained that he would like to recruit a suitably qualified person to prepare the annual accounts with his help in order to save on the accountancy costs of £1,500 each year (necessitated because we are a company limited by guarantee). Oliver Schick who had been present had responded to this and had recommended Dave Harris who is the Treasurer for Hackney Cyclists (Oliver is a prominent member) and provides an Independent Examiner service for other Hackney charities, Tony was pleased that Dave had agreed to take on the role. He expressed his gratitude to Dave and to Oliver for making the introduction.</p> <p>The Society's Chair, Lisa Shell commented on item 7a) an exhibition at the Geffrye Museum setting out their expansion plans, informing the meeting that she was shortly to meet with staff from the Geffrye to discuss the latest stage of their plans.</p>
3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee	<p>Nick Perry, who was elected as Chair of the Society at last year's AGM, explained that he does not qualify to be a Trustee of the Hackney Society, so has resigned that position, and thus as Chair. The Trustees wanted him to continue to attend meetings and in all his duties for the Society. He has been given the title of Director. [NB, for a period the Society did have a paid post of director, filled by Kevin Moore - who had previously been a trustee, and returned to being a trustee and Chair after funding for the post came to an end] The Trustees had chosen Lisa Shell to take over as the Society's Chair.</p> <p>Nick presented the report for the year ended 31 March 2015, with contributions from other Trustees on the areas they cover. He emphasised that the Society flourishes thanks to the Trustees who are all volunteers, although occasionally a Trustee is paid for professional services they provide (details are in note 13 of the Financial Statement).</p> <p>Lisa Shell reported that there is now a solid Planning Sub-Group made up mainly of architects, but with a Conservation Officer from another London borough. She outlined some of the planning applications they had been involved with.</p>

	<p>Ray Blackburn spoke of recent and upcoming events, and requested suggestions for cheap, preferably free venues for forthcoming events.</p> <p>Margaret Willes spoke of plans to produce a book celebrating 50 years of the Hackney Society for publication in 2017. To contribute towards the costs of production, a fundraising Quiz Night is planned for Wednesday, 17th February 2016, at the Old Schoolroom, Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, E5 0PU. She is seeking raffle prizes.</p> <p>Monica Blake spoke about <i>Spaces</i>, and invited suggestions for new buildings and controversial planning applications that could be included in it.</p> <p>Nick Perry spoke about the website which needs updating just as soon as funds allow, and said that, thanks to Trustee Rossana Tich, we now have over 8,000 followers on Twitter!</p> <p>Nick spoke about the need to review our membership structure. From the floor there was a suggestion for reduced membership fees for school and college students, and a mention that BSix college has an architecture club</p> <p>The Trustees would welcome more help, in particular someone who could help with fundraising. This assistance would not require the person to become a Trustee.</p> <p>The report was approved - proposed by Lisa Shell and seconded by Monica Blake.</p>
<p>4. Election of Independent Financial Examiners.</p>	<p>Tony Gillett, the Treasurer proposed the election of David Harris as our independent examiner. He is a qualified accountant, now retired, who provides this Independent Examiner service for several other Hackney charities. He referred to Article 49 in the Society's Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association: <i>Appointment of Reporting Accountants or Auditors, The Company must appoint properly qualified reporting accountants or properly qualified auditors if the level of the Company's income or assets from time to time makes this a legal requirement.</i> He also proposed that David be re-appointed as Independent Financial Examiners to the Society for the following year. Tony Gillett proposed and Lisa Shell seconded.,</p> <p>The proposals were agreed unanimously.</p>
<p>5. Report of the Independent Financial Examiners for the year 2014/15</p>	<p>Tony Gillett, the Treasurer spoke to the report.</p> <p>The accounts were approved - proposed by Tony Gillett and seconded by Fiona Darbyshire.</p>
<p>6. Approval of the Mission Statement</p>	<p>The Trustees are proposing a new Mission Statement for the Society: <i>Promoting the highest standards in design and protecting Hackney's unique heritage. The Hackney Society has encouraged positive development of the borough's built and natural environments, through engagement with a broad cross-section of local people and experts. We encourage exemplary new design, regeneration and conservation of our rich heritage through Spaces (our newsletter), our publications, walks, talks, meetings, website and social media.</i></p> <p>Nick Perry explained that this reflection of the Society's activities would become a tag line.</p> <p>Lisa Shell proposed and Colin Brooking seconded, and the Mission Statement was agreed unanimously.</p>