

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020 of Lymm Heritage Information Centre.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom 10am Monday 21st September 2020

Welcome from the Chairman

Chairman Alan Williams thanked all those who attended the meeting and for making the effort to attend.

Minutes of the last AGM held 3rd April 2019

The Chairman proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Malcolm Young. No questions or comments were raised about the minutes. The minutes were duly approved.

Ordinary Resolutions

The Trustees Annual Report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 were presented.

It was proposed and seconded that the Annual report and accounts be received without comment or change.

Re-election of Trustees

Mr P Knowles and Ms G Allen were due for re-election. Both had expressed their willingness to continue. They were proposed and seconded by Geoff Hawley and Ray Banton.

Mr P Knowles and Ms G Allen were duly re-elected as Trustees.

Financial situation in 2020

In the light of the Covid pandemic, the Treasurer thought it more appropriate to talk about key financial developments to date in 2020 rather than focusing on 2019 which is fully covered in the 2019 Annual Report. He noted the following.

- The Centre's initial three year rent free period ended in May and from 1 June 2020, £1,000 rent is being paid each month and this is the most significant cost of running the Centre.
- The Heritage Lottery grant funding deadline was extended to 31 December 2020.
- From 2021 costs are expected to be c. £20,000 to £24,000 p.a.
- We aspire to generate sufficient income to cover our costs each year.
- The lockdown of the Centre for almost four months from mid March meant the temporary cessation of many forms of income including retail, Centre donations, room hire, education and talks. In addition, a regular significant donor, Lymm Historic Transport Day was unable to make an annual donation owing to the cancellation of this year's event.
- In order to counter the inability to make generate income through Centre sales during the lockdown, Alan Williams established a facility to offer online sales. This has generated £1,000 of sales to date.
- The Treasurer estimated around £7,000 of potential income was lost due to the lockdown.
- In the past few months, however, some significant income had been gratefully received:
 - £10,000 government grant to help small charities with significant fixed property costs.
 - £1,000 donation from Lymm Festival.
 - £2,000 grant from Lymm Parish Council to part fund the completion of the Heritage Lottery project and fund 2021 exhibition expenditure.
 - £10,000 donation from Cotebrook Limited arising from the distribution of surplus funds on the winding up of that company.
- The charity's cash balance is now c. £84,000.
- The remainder of 2020 and 2021 are likely to be challenging given the continuing presence of coronavirus and it is almost inevitable that the charity will have to use some of its reserves to fund costs. It is estimated this could amount to £5,000 to £15,000 up to the end of 2021.

- Costs are estimated to be around £140,000 to £160,000 over the next seven years (current lease expires May 2027).
- The charity's strong reserves and diversified income streams mean that financially we are far better placed to meet near term challenges than many other museums and charities.

Summary of achievements in 2019

The Chairman outlined the following achievements

In 2019, visitor numbers had increased from just under 6,000 in 2018 to over 7,000. In particular the Chirotherium model had generated much visitor footfall and interest.

Analysis of visitors shows that many visitors are not Lymm based, with many visiting from within a 20 mile radius, and some from further afield. It was noted that the Centre is also a focus for repeat visits.

The Centre's charitable objectives had been met thanks to the hard work of all the individuals and teams involved in running the Centre.

The artistic talent and professionalism of Colin and Janet Grimes had contributed to this success. Colin and Janet were thanked for their hard work.

Roger Hannam had also made an enormous contribution with his excellent research on the slitting mill, the geology of Lymm and on the gold beating and salt industries of Lymm.

A goal had been set to complete nine different topics in 2020. Almost all had been completed with the exception of making a diorama for the model boats.

The education team led by Malcolm had delivered programmes for schools on WW1. The Centre had worked in partnership with Ellesmere Boat museum to deliver the 'We Love our Canal' program to schools.

The Centre had teamed up with Past View to develop the Lymm Digital Archive which provides images and documents of the history of Lymm. This has been a great success and is proving useful for family research. Glynis Allen and the digital archive team were thanked for all their hard work on this project.

The Lymm HIC website now has over 90 pages of information and receives lots of 'hits' with the Facebook page having members worldwide. A new Facebook page called Lymm Memories is now available with over 2,000 members.

Further thanks were given for the contributions of Mark Linnell who manages the volunteer rota with great patience and expertise. Mark has faced challenges due to some volunteers no longer being able to volunteer at the Centre due to the Covid situation.

Patrick Knowles was also thanked for all his hard work as Treasurer as well as working with Chris Wakefield on Friends' administration and managing room hire. It was noted that Patrick works hard to maximise every opportunity to increase revenue for the Centre and does it most successfully.

Work on a future Lymm Traditions exhibition has continued during the Covid closure. Once complete, this means the Heritage Lottery Fund project objective of presenting Lymm Trades, Transport and Traditions, will have been met.

Questions from members

Chris Wakefield raised a question about increasing the number of Friends. A brief discussion was undertaken, and it was agreed to discuss this further outside the AGM.

Ray Banton asked if the Remembrance window display will go ahead this year. It was confirmed it would.