

The Westminster Society AGM 4 September 2021

MINUTES

1 Present + apologies

80 people attended the meeting in the theatre at 5.30pm. Apologies were received from Keith and Liz Berry.

2 Minutes of 2019 AGM

Published in the 2020 issue of 'The Westminsterian', **the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.**

3 Chair's report 2019-2021

Sylvia Clift reported on the challenges for the Society during lockdown which meant that business had to be conducted in online meetings and by email. Despite the pandemic and organisational hitches, the BA award celebrations had now been held! Since the previous AGM, Peter Steadman had been coopted as Membership and Online data manager (following on from Dave Haigh's significant work), and Liz Stock had joined the Reunion team. Roger Clift continued as acting treasurer until David Gibbs volunteered to become Treasurer earlier this year. Peter Steadman conducted a survey on how members valued the Society's work which clarified future priorities: the magazine, the reunion, area link groups. Other committee members included John Wallace, Frances Ann Johnson, Will Bissett, Peter Relf and Denis Baldry. Miriam Moul was welcomed as the new Methodist Chaplain to Oxford Brookes University. Sylvia thanked Denis for editing six consecutive issues of 'The Westminsterian', and thanked everyone involved in organising the reunion.

4 New Constitution

Peter Relf outlined the need to update the 2000 constitution. After discussion, it was agreed that to clarify the thinking behind some clauses, including the committee's ability to terminate membership, the notes on the update should be accepted as part of the new constitution. **The 2021 constitution was then adopted unanimously.**

5 Treasurer's report

David Gibbs presented financial statements covering the two-year period since the previous AGM's report. The first covered the period August 2019 to May 2020 so that the following financial year could begin on 1 June 2020 when membership subscriptions were due. The second covered the period June 2020 to May 2021. Both sets of accounts balanced, and both had been examined independently and approved. A 3-year comparison was also available. **The accounts were then formally adopted unanimously.**

6 The Westminsterian

Denis Baldry had been privileged to be the editor of The Westminsterian. His understanding of what Westminster College means to so many had grown over the years. He outlined the annual preparation process and gave special thanks to Bob Pomfret of Oxford Brookes University for the magazine's artwork and layout.

7 Elections

The following people were each elected unanimously to serve for two years:

Peter Relf as Chair, Mary Lines as Secretary, David Gibbs as Treasurer, Peter Steadman as Membership & Online officer. These four posts constitute the Executive in the new constitution.

Also elected to the General Committee were: John Wallace and Frances Ann Johnson as the area links groups representatives, and Liz Stock as the Reunion team representative. A representative for the communications team will be coopted as soon as possible. The remaining ex officio posts on the General Committee were also announced. **The new constitution was then signed.**

8 Subscriptions

Peter Steadman explained that a higher subscription would enable the Society to extend research for the Society's membership database, to support area links groups, to further enhance reunion weekends, to develop the Society's website as well as continuing to publish 'The Westminsterian' magazine. The large database offered scope for increasing membership of the Society. **An increase to £10, due on 1 June each year, was agreed unanimously.**

Peter asked members to [*adjust their standing orders to £10*](#). David Gibbs asked members to [*ensure that the reference on their standing orders gave their name and college years*](#).

9 Thanks and presentations

Peter Steadman expressed the Society's warmest thanks to Sylvia for her years of faithful service and read a very kind testimonial from the Society's first female Chair, Shelagh Patrick 65-68. Mary Lines presented a gift to Sylvia, and also included grateful thanks to Roger Clift. She also presented a gift to Denis Baldry on his retirement from the editorship of The Westminsterian. John Hawkins expressed thanks to all for the way this reunion had kindled warmth of feeling for Westminster College.

10 Next AGM

Sylvia Clift announced that the next AGM would be held during the next reunion in the first weekend of September 2022, and the meeting closed with the College Song, the Shout and applause.