



THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Held on Tuesday 11 September 2017 at 6.30pm, at Suleymaniye Mosque, 212-216 Kingsland Road, E2 8AX

The AGM was followed by a tour of the prayer rooms

Present: Trustees - Nick Perry, Lisa Shell, Julia Lafferty, Ray Blackburn, Monica Blake, Tony Gillett; Independent Financial Examiner - Dave Harris; and circa 25 members.

Agenda Items	Discussions and Decisions
1. Apologies for Absence/ Announcement.	<p>Apologies were received from: Laurie Elks (Trustee) and Colin Brooking, Rossana Tich, Margaret Willes, Mary Cannon, Ian Rathbone, Rosie Barker, Jerry Cooper, Ronnie Barden (members).</p> <p>Tony Gillett paid a tribute to Melvyn Brooks who died in early August. Melvyn was very proud of being a Life Member of the Hackney Society since its foundation and had always been a good friend to the Society despite him being the member who lived furthest away from Hackney, because he moved to Israel many years ago! He came over in June 2013 to show images from his extensive collection of postcards featuring Hackney to a packed out enthusiastic public meeting we organised. And, he recently became the first person to order via our website a Hackney Society pin badge.</p>
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM	<p>The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 14 November 2017 were approved - proposed by Lisa Shell and seconded by Julia Lafferty.</p>
3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee	<p>Nick Perry, Chair of the Trustees, presented the report for the year ended 31 March 2018. He praised Margaret Willes, who had stood down as a Trustee during the year, for her work on our publications. The main activities had been round the launch of our book in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hackney Society, <i>Hackney: portrait of a community 1967 - 2017</i>.</p> <p>Our events had always been well attended, and we have started a partnership with Friends of the Hackney Archives to hold joint events.</p> <p>The Society has begun selling its titles through the Amazon Marketplace. It is our policy to price Amazon sales so they are no cheaper than RRP and that our income, net of postage and package costs, is greater or similar to those of direct website sales and trade sales. 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, is moving forward.</p> <p>The Trustees aim to prioritise redevelopment of the website but we remain constrained by the lack of capital funds for the project.</p>

	<p>The Planning Sub-Group, with its several professional members, is thriving. Developers, especially the more small scale ones, are increasingly asking to make presentations to them, and they are finding the sub-group useful in their discussions with their clients. It continues to engage with the Planning department, for example on the Planning Brief for St Mary's Lodge.</p> <p>Nick explained that the Trustees cannot get involved in everything that members would like them to, and said that members were always welcome to take on projects with the Trustees' support.</p> <p>Nick then spoke about raising the membership fee and the charge for events. He is about to meet with non-trustees to look at the way forward for the Society, and invited anyone interested in getting involved to contact him. Ray Blackburn, who along with Laurie Elks is the Trustee responsible for events, explained that starting from January 2019 the charge for events will be £5 for members, £10 for non-members, which will bring us closer to the amounts charged by commercial organisations. The meeting supported these changes plus any review of membership fees.</p> <p>The report was approved - proposed by Fiona Darbyshire and seconded by Julia Lafferty.</p>
<p>4. Report of the Independent Financial Examiner for the year 2017/18</p>	<p>Tony Gillett spoke to the accounts, and explained that the reserves stood at £19,343, a small increase on the previous year. Once again on the advice of Dave Harris, the Independent Financial Examiner, the Trustees have sanctioned a write-down of £2,000 in the valuation of books, as it was unrealistic to expect to sell sufficient of the older titles to meet the previous valuation. In relation to the publication of <i>Hackney: portrait of a community 1967-2017</i> financial assurances had been given by two Trustees but in the event they did not need to be taken up. 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, he was pleased about the further write down of the valuation of books, and thanked the Trustees for the gift of a free copy of <i>Hackney: portrait of a community 1967 - 2017</i>. The accounts were approved - proposed by Fiona Darbyshire and seconded by Julia Lafferty.</p>
<p>5. Election of Independent Financial Examiner.</p>	<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>
<p>6. Election of Trustees</p>	<p>Margaret Willes, who had been a Trustee since 2011, decided to stand down during the year. The 7 other Trustees plus Wendy Forrest, who had been co-opted on to the management committee during the year, were standing for election. No other members had come forward.</p> <p>They were all elected unanimously.</p>