

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL
HELD ON SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 10.00 am
in the North Transept**

1. The Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury, and President of the Association of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, opened the eighty-sixth AGM with the Friends' prayer.

2. President's Address:

The Dean was pleased and delighted to welcome all present to Friends' Day and the AGM, always a significant date in September's Cathedral diary.

The Dean said how pleased she was that the Friends were now in their new home in the Close, a place offering warmth and hospitality to all Friends, hosted by Kate and her colleagues and committed Chairman Duncan Glass, whom she thanked warmly on behalf of all members.

The cathedral was also in good heart, for which she gave thanks and blessings. The cathedral's Annual Report was due to be published, and the Dean encouraged everyone to read it. The cathedral and community had played an important part in the national Magna Carta celebrations, collaborated locally, and covered all costs, and thanks to a Lottery grant several innovative events had taken place finishing with the magnificent Magna Flora. After this wonderfully successful but demanding year, a conscious breathing space this year was trying to reduce pressure on everyone.

The Dean reported the significant new staffing appointments within the cathedral of Chapter Clerk Jackie Molnar, who had joined us from Bournemouth University, and Canon Treasurer Robert Titley, also Chapter's representative on the Friends' Council; both were proving to

be fantastic additions to the cathedral's life.

The Cathedral School and Leadenhall School, both in the Close, had amalgamated in March and were now operational in September as one, which was looking to be working hugely successfully.

There had been two consultations about the Master Plan and over 4,000 people had taken part. Now Wiltshire Council was beginning its own consultation on the cathedral's revised proposals, which had taken into account the findings from the previous consultations, and the Dean encouraged everyone to take part.

The Dean was delighted to welcome Mayor Derek Brown and his wife Penny to Friends' Day. Salisbury City was a crucial partner in our life and welfare, totally intertwined, and the cathedral was working with the city to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the inauguration of the Cathedral in 2020.

The Dean, Chapter and cathedral Executive staff were now working on the creation of the next five-year plan to decide what the priorities were for the cathedral, to be launched next March/April. She predicted they would confirm that worship would go on as the heart of cathedral life with its choral traditions, and to build on this; that the values of the last five years would stay the same; that the commitment to outreach would continue to extend access to the cathedral to a wider audience, a central part of the master plan; to work on smaller projects such as improving the entrance to the cathedral using the north porch.

The Dean ended her address by thanking the Friends in achieving and continuing to support the wonderful outcome of Little Paradise – and the high quality of the cathedral’s lavatories!

3. Chairman’s Welcome: Duncan Glass welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the 756th Mayor of Salisbury, Councillor Derek Brown and his Consort Penny Brown. He thanked Mayor Brown for choosing the Friends as one of his Mayoral Charities alongside the ABF soldiers’ charity and Horatio’s Garden, and for offering us the opportunity to all work closely with the City. Duncan was very happy with the success of the Friends in meeting our objects, and improving our compliance with the recommendations of the Charity Commission. Council meetings continued to be lively debates about Friends’ business, and he thanked the Trustees for their continued and generous input and support, and keeping our ‘house in good order’. In light of charities coming into the spotlight for the wrong reasons over the past year, he assured members that the Friends worked hard to ensure we did things right.

Duncan reported that the Events Sub-Committee, formed in January 2015 with Keith Millman as Chairman, continued to meet regularly and the events programme conceived and delivered so far had led to greater engagement with members, raised the public profile of the Friends, and attracted new members. He hoped members were enjoying the increased opportunity to participate and he thanked everyone for their strong support; all contributions received from events boosted our income.

The recruitment initiative to give all cathedral volunteers who were not already Friends a year’s free honorary membership, had been enjoyed by them,

and a good number had taken up the opportunity to subscribe at the end of the free year.

Canon Robert Titley joined the Friends’ Council in February as Chapter’s Representative, and had since become greatly involved with us which was very much appreciated; he brought wide experience and expertise to our regular meetings. Duncan was very pleased to also report that a new Archdeaconry Representative for Dorset had also been appointed, so we were a full set of trustees once again.

He thanked all staff in the Friends’ office for another successful year, together with members for their continued support for the Friends, our wonderful cathedral ‘fan club’, the source of our success.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th September 2015:

The Chairman reported that formal Apologies had been received from the following members: Colin Peal, Victoria Coombes, Dorothy Twissell, Rowan & Fiona Brockhurst, Hugh Clatworthy, Angela Crampton, Bill MacAlpine, Paul Williams, Sue Ash, Mark Bell, Sheila Nell, Jane Erith.

Colin Colston Proposed, Seconded by Rodney Targett, that the Minutes be accepted as a correct and true record of the Annual General Meeting held 19th September 2015. All were in favour, and the Minutes were signed by the President, the Very Revd June Osborne.

5. Matters Arising None were raised.

6. Changes to the Constitution: the Chairman took members through the small changes, grammatical amendments, and updates to correct language in the Friends’ Constitution, which had been previously published to the membership. All present were in favour of adopting the new Constitution

through a show of hands, and it was formally adopted. Copies of the new Constitution would be distributed to the membership in due course, and confirmed with the Charity Commission.

7. Election of Members to Council:

The Chairman thanked the two outgoing elected Members of Council, Keith Millman and Mark Bell, for their excellent support over the last three years. Both had given generous input to Council throughout their terms of office, and additionally Keith had served on two sub-committees for Membership and Events. Two new candidates had been Proposed and Seconded, and approved for election by Council at their meeting in July, Mr Dudley Heather and Mr Colin Colston; the meeting was all in favour and they were duly elected. The Chairman welcomed them both to the Friends Executive Council, and thanked them for making this generous commitment. Another important addition to the team was Mr Michael Joseph, who had been appointed by the Archdeacon of Dorset to serve as his Representative on the Friends' Council, and the Chairman was delighted to introduce Michael to the members.

8. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016

The Friends' Hon Treasurer, Chris Dragonetti, reported that the year ended 31st March had once again been a successful one, in that the accounts showed a small deficit over the year, and so we remained solvent whilst continuing to meet our principal objective of providing financial support to Salisbury Cathedral.

In highlighting the main features of the summary accounts featured in the Friends' Annual Report, Chris said that income for the year was nearly £189k, an increase of £17k on the preceding year, attributed mainly to an increase in

income from fundraising events. Other income streams remained broadly similar to the previous year.

Looking at expenditure, the Treasurer said the situation was straightforward; we had given grants totally £104k of which £74k was for Little Paradise, £24k towards Magna Carta projects, £3k towards cathedral flowers, and £3k towards the re-ordering of St Michael's Chapel. Excepting Little Paradise, these grant commitments were made in the previous year, so the actual charge in 2015/16 was only £72k. In raising £38k through events, costs incurred were £28k leaving a surplus of £10k, a worthwhile sum through the hard work of the office staff and volunteers. The figures also reflected the costs incurred in the office re-location of £8,700 although this would have been a much higher figure without all the sterling voluntary work put in by the Chairman and his team. Support costs or administration were some £41k, slightly higher attributable to higher depreciation arising from the cost of new computers and other capital expenditure for the new offices.

Total expenditure was £160k overall, so we had a surplus on the year of £28k, negated by unrealised investment losses also of £28k, giving a net reduction in funds of £282. As a result at the year end, the Friends' total funds were more or less unchanged at £520k.

There being no questions from the floor, the Treasurer thanked Fletcher & Partners for their help and support in the preparation of the accounts, and for their audit of them.

Valerie Shrubbs Proposed, Seconded by Katharine Shearing, that the Accounts be formally adopted, and all were in favour.

9. Appointment of Honorary Auditors

Ursula Pomeroy Proposed, Seconded by Hugh Keatinge, the appointment of

Messrs Fletcher & Partners as Honorary Auditors of the Friends Accounts, and all were in favour. The Friends greatly appreciated all the help and advice received from Fletchers; the Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his work and support.

10. Secretary's Report Kate Beckett welcomed all present, particularly new members, and thanked all members for their continued support for the Friends.

Kate reported that her office staff had dealt with another excellent number of new member applications through 2015-16, ending with 3386 in the total membership on 31st March 2016. The current total membership stood at 3461, an increase which reflected the success of their recruitment drive amongst cathedral volunteers.

She said she and her colleagues were very much enjoying working at 33a The Close, and was pleased to report that many members had visited and admired the work carried out to accommodate the Friends. She was grateful to the many helpers and donations received to make it fit for purpose, and reported that the offices had been blessed by the Dean of Salisbury in a moving ceremony.

Kate reported on the events programme for Friends and public alike throughout 2015-16 including the holiday to Northern Ireland, other trips and events, which aimed ultimately to engage our members, raise our profile and encourage new members to join, whilst making some small profit to add to our income. Plans were constantly being made for future events, and Julia Lever had joined the Friends' office team to help with events management and administration, a welcome addition.

She was also grateful to Katharine Shearing, who was not only a Trustee, but

our Archdeaconry Representative for Wiltshire, and a member of the Events Sub-Committee; Katharine also wrote our press releases which has greatly raised our profile locally.

Kate reported that in May of 2016 we had held an open garden event around the close which was a successful and delightful day. Leading on from this, Nick Stiven the steward at Matrons' College had proposed forming a Salisbury Florelium Society of Botanical Art for the secret gardens opened, and this was now up and running. Kate urged any botanical artists amongst the Friends to come and find out more and hopefully join in, as she hoped to hold another open gardens event in 2017 and would like to see artists working in situ!

All mailings this year had been sent via a direct mail company, as a trial system to reduce costs and time and effort involved in dealing with our large and heavy mail outs. The findings would be considered and evaluated in due course so that Council could make an informed decision about the way forward with mailings.

Another change the Friends' were working on was to introduce Direct Debit payments for subscriptions, and the setting up of a new CAF bank account to process them. Members would receive word about this in due course.

Kate reported that the new Christmas card design was painted specially for the Friends by local artist Sue Finnis, a favourite. Cards were on sale from the office, Cards for Good Causes in Southons, and at the Cathedral shop which was running its discount fortnight 21st November to 4th December 2016.

Kate ended her report by thanking all who supported and helped her to run the Friends, from the President, our hard-working Chairman, our volunteers

including family members, work colleagues, and all staff at the cathedral and refectory.

11. Any Other Business Malcolm Sturgess raised his concerns if volunteers did not continue hand delivering our mailings, and the Chairman thanked him for his good

points, and assured him that these would be considered during the evaluation of the current trial; the Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, for their great support, and that of our Dean.

The AGM finished at 10.45 am with The President saying the Grace.