

**The Eight Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. James, Bishampton
held via Zoom on Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 7pm**

Present:

Trustees: Derek Ruskin (Chairman), Lucy Fairfax (Treasurer), Pam McAdam (Secretary) & Wendy Wiggett

Members: Andy Batchelor, Eric Carter, **Martin and Jennie Dickinson**, Bill Dobie, Sue Ellis, Michael Hodges, Revd. Gary Noyes and Geraldine Stapley.

Minute No: 24/2020 - Apologies

Martin Wilkinson

Minute No: 25/2020 - Minutes of the AGM held on 13th May 2019

The minutes were proposed as correct and unanimously agreed.

Minute No: 26/2020 – Chairman’s Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He said it was with great sadness that he had to start the meeting with the devastating news concerning the untimely death of one of our long serving Trustees, Howard Morrish. Howard had been a Trustee almost since the Charity's inception in 2014 and joined on the day he moved into the village when he was "persuaded" to join by Martin Dickinson. His help and support, his sense of humour and of course his amazing curries (enjoyed by many of the villagers at our Curry and Quiz nights) will be sorely missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to Ellie and the boys.

The Chairman then gave his report on the year's events and a copy is attached at Appendix A.

Martin Dickinson asked why the radiator, for the tower of the Church, had still not been replaced. Andy Batchelor advised that a radiator had been delivered but it was found to be damaged and as yet a replacement had not been sent. Bill Dobie said that a PCC meeting was being held the following week and the matter would be raised and pursued.

Minute No: 27/2020 – Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer presented the end of year accounts for 2019 with comments as attached at Appendix B which have been examined and found correct by Mr Martin Wilkinson.

Martin Dickinson commented that it was disappointing that due to the Coronavirus outbreak spending of any of the funds raised had not been possible so far this year. Hopefully this would happen later on in the year.

Geraldine Stapley asked about the funds being held from ticket sales with regard to the cancelled Curry and Quiz night. The Treasurer advised that refunds had been offered to everyone but only a few had taken up the offer with the remainder saying they were happy for the money to be held in readiness for the next quiz. She added however that she would contact people again to ask if they required refunds.

Minute No: 28/2020– Election of Trustees and Officers

The following trustees and officers were proposed by Eric Carter seconded by Bill Dobie and agreed unanimously.

Lucy Fairfax; Pam McAdam; Derek Ruskin; Wendy Wiggett

The following officers were proposed by Eric Carter seconded by Bill Dobie and agreed unanimously.

Derek Ruskin – Chairman; Lucy Fairfax - Treasurer; Pam McAdam - Secretary

Minute No: 29/2020 - Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2020

It was proposed and agreed by all that Martin Wilkinson be appointed Examiner of the Accounts for 2020. The Chairman extended his thanks to Martin for his work in examining the FOSJ Accounts for 2019.

Minute No: 30/2020 - Proposed revision to Friends of St James' Constitution in respect of Internet Banking

The Treasurer advised that she had been informed by Martin Wilkinson, the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, that Internet Banking allows one signatory to make BACS payments. It was therefore proposed that a second Trustee would put in writing their approval of any BACS transfer thereby ensuring two Trustees were involved in the transaction. This was agreed by all present

Minute No: 31/2020 - The Future of Friends of St James

The Chairman said due to having only four Trustees future events would be low key and not as frequent.

Bill Dobie advised that he would be happy to present a talk next year with his friend with whom he had done previous talks to raise funds for FOSJ. The Chairman said this was much appreciated.

Minute No: 32/2020 –Questions from online Attendees

Sue Ellis asked whether an annual inspection took place of the church roof as she felt with the roof being so old this was necessary. Andy Batchelor said the roof did not have a formal inspection annually but was checked from the tower each year. Bill Dobie said he would raise this at the forthcoming PCC meeting.

Minute No: 33/2019 – Any other Business

Bill Dobie and Martin Dickinson passed on their thanks to the Trustees for continuing with the charity despite the reduction in numbers. Both stated that to recruit new Trustees was hard and took a great deal of persistence and maybe a drive to recruit more villagers could take place in the New Year.

Revd. Gary Noyes also added his thanks to the Trustees and Victoria Poole of the PCC who he stated did a good job in monitoring the ongoing state of the Church.

The Chairman thanked everyone attending this Zoom meeting which formally closed at 7.40 pm