

**The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. James, Bishampton
held via Zoom on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm**

Present:

Trustees: Derek Ruskin (Chairman), Lucy Fairfax (Treasurer)
Pam McAdam (Secretary), Bill Dobie, Rob Preston, Mike Rickard, Rosemary Rickard &
Wendy Wiggett

Members: Martin and Jennie Dickinson, Steve Dowling, Michael Hodges, Geraldine Stapley,

Guest: Reverend Sarah Dangerfield

Minute No: 32/2021 - Apologies

None

Minute No: 33/2021 - Minutes of the AGM held on 7th July 2020

The minutes were proposed as correct and unanimously agreed.

Minute No: 34/2021 - Matters Arising from last year's Minutes

The Chairman advised Martin Dickinson, with regard to his question about why the installation of the radiator in the bell tower had not taken place, that the radiator had recently been installed. In response to Geraldine Stapley's query about refunds of monies paid for the Curry and Quiz, which had been cancelled due to the Covid restrictions, he advised that everyone who had bought tickets had been contacted and refunds given to those requesting them with the remainder being held for the quiz which had been rearranged for this September.

Minute No: 35/2021 – Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read his Report which is attached at Appendix A

Minute No: 36/2021 – Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the end of year accounts for 2020 (year ending December 2020) as attached at Appendix B which have been examined and found correct by Martin Wilkinson, the Independent Examiner. She said that, as of today's date, the bank account had funds of £14613.30. With regard to donations a good proportion of them were Gift Aided which realised an extra 25p in the £. An increase in revenue raised from Amazon Smile and Give as you Live had raised £127.20. She explained that discussions had been had about putting £10k into a reserve fund to be used purely for the roof but as yet nothing had been set up. Martin Dickinson said he realised that due to the circumstances of the last year it had been difficult to spend any of the funds held in the FoSJ account and hoped that the Trustees would agree to putting £10k into a separate account for the work to the roof. He asked what other works were planned as it had always been agreed that large sums of money would not sit in the FoSJ account. Bill advised that recently a number of small invoices had been paid for works to the Bothy, the railings, electrical works and the installation of the radiator but also the Quinquennial Report was in the process of being finalised which would highlight works needed.

Minute No: 37/2021 – Election of Trustees and Officers

The Chairman advised that he, Pam McAdam and Wendy Wiggett would be stepping down from their roles as Trustees and Officers. Pam would stay on for the next two meetings as Minute Taker to ease the transition.

The following Officers were proposed by the Chairman -

Bill Dobie - Chairman	seconded by Geraldine Stapley
Rob Preston - Treasurer	seconded by Lucy Fairfax
Mike Rickard - Secretary	seconded by Martin Dickinson

all were agreed unanimously.

The Chairman added a special vote of thanks to Wendy who has served as a Trustee for 8 years. Martin Dickinson said that Wendy had been invaluable when the Charity had been first set up and did so much to help with food preparation at events.

Derek Ruskin then handed over to the newly elected Chair, Bill Dobie.

Bill said before he started he would like to thank Derek for all his work as Trustee and then as Chairman which was very much appreciated by the Friends of St James.

Minute No: 38/2021 - Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2020

The Chairman said he had spoken to Martin Wilkinson and thanked him for his work in examining the FOSJ Accounts for 2020. Martin had agreed to be the Examiner of the Accounts for 2021.

Lucy wished her thanks to be recorded too and said that Martin was very professional and timely in his responses.

Minute No: 39/2021 - Proposed Amendment to Friends of St James' Constitution in respect of Membership

The Chairman explained that the existing wording of section 8.(1) read

- ***“Membership is open to individuals over eighteen or organisations who are approved by the trustees and has made a donation to the charity”***

and it was proposed to change it to

- ***Membership is open to individuals over the age of eighteen or organisations who are approved by the trustees and who have made a minimum annual or annualised donation of £10 to the charity.***

He explained that the amendment was proposed to fall in line with other "Friends" Constitutions. There were no questions raised regarding the amendment so the Chairman proposed the change and Derek Ruskin seconded and all were in favour.

Martin Dickinson said that he was pleased the amendment had been agreed but asked how the change was going to be dealt with in terms of the membership as the idea was to gain more members not lose them due to this change. The Chairman said he would be contacting those whose email addresses he had advising them of the change and asking if they would like to set up a regular donation and explaining if, after a period of six months, they had not made a donation they would no longer be a member of FoSJ. He would initially be sending a draft message to the other Trustees for their comments before sending to Members.

The Chairman asked how many regular donors there were and Rob said it was 19 with approx 77 total membership.

Mike commented that he thought it was a good method of membership management as many donors had made an initial donation when they first joined but not made a donation since. He didn't think this was right especially if they were not turning up to meetings. He said that with the 6 month time limit to make a donation he hoped that the Treasurer would be emailing out to members at the five month stage as a gentle reminder. It was possible that the total membership

number would decrease but hopefully the "paying" membership would increase as the minimum annual donation had been pitched at a relatively low level.

Minute No: 40/2021 –Questions from online Attendees

Sarah Dangerfield wanted to pass on her grateful thanks to the Trustees and members and said it was a great pleasure to come into a church and village that had "Friends" supporting the fabric of the Church. She said she took over in October 2020 when times were difficult and strange and said it was good to be back in the church again now. She added that there would be a PCC meeting this week when they'd be looking at more regular presence in the church building.

Michael Hodges explained that he had lived in Bishampton and been in the church choir and that St James had been an important part of his life but he now lived in Pershore where he was a Chairman of The Friends of Pershore Abbey, which had been established in 1931. He asked what the ambitions of the Friends of St James might be and whether there were any projects on the horizon. The Chairman explained that there would be a project to replace some of the glazing and the stonework around the glazing and also replacement of the roof both of which were major and expensive projects totalling c£100k. Mr Hodges asked how this work would be funded and the Chairman said the Trustees would be discussing ways of fund raising and other avenues of income generation. Mr Hodges said that one of the ways in which to generate new members is to inspire them with a vision and to share this using social media, literature etc. Mike said the Trustees would be happy to learn from the Friends of Pershore Abbey and Rob agreed that regular contact would be very useful. Mr Hodges said they would be happy to share any of their wisdom/ideas.

Minute No: 41/2021 – Any other Business

Derek advised everyone that all documents relating to FoSJ could be found on the website fosj.org.uk such as the annual report, minutes of all meetings held and the financial accounts. He advised that he would continue to update the website until such time as someone else took over the responsibility.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this Zoom meeting which formally closed at 7.35 pm

Signed

Dated