STAMFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Society's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2013 in the Court Room of Stamford Town Hall.

1. The Society’s President, Mr Rock, welcomed everyone to the 51st AGM and stated how much he appreciated the sterling work undertaken by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr & Mrs M Atkinson, Mr K Blyth, Dr J Chatterton, Mr & Mrs M Davies, Mr & Mrs D Ellis, Mr & Mrs K Ellis, Mrs A Fairmann, Mr & Mrs R Fuggle, Mr S Hart, Mr & Mrs P Heyes, Mr R Humm,Mr & Mrs J Kellas-Kelly,Mrs J Kimber, Mr & Mrs M Lander, Mr & Mrs J Lessey, Mr & Mrs E Livock, Mrs E McCrossan, Mr & Mrs T Padmore, Mrs P Read, Mr J Roberts, Dr & Mrs G Rowlands, Mr B Smith, Mr & Mrs H Smith, Mr P Stevens, Ms A Sutherland, Mr B Thomas, Mr M Thompson, Mrs A Wheeler, Mr & Mrs A Williams, and Mrs S Withers.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 2012 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairman’s Report

Mrs Gibbs thanked Mr Rock for his help and support. She extended thanks to all the Committee for their help and in particular to Mrs Stanier, who was standing down after serving for many years on the committee, and who received a bouquet from the President.

It had been another successful year, with interesting talks and tours and the first annual Members’ Meeting. A newsletter in a new format was now sent out every 2 months; the website had been updated; and the Society now had a presence on Facebook and Twitter for a trial period. The Sundial Project was continuing for a further year with a varied educational programme, following the erection of a new sundial on All Saints’ Church with the old one safely inside the church.

The Urban Group with their many greening projects were now part of the Civic Society. They were also running the QR Code Project to enable visitors to find out more about the town’s buildings.

Finally, she thanked all Members for their continuing support.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Full details of the Accounts were circulated before the meeting. There had been an increase in the general balance, which would allow for new projects. The Sundial Project had received money from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Skells Trust, and private donations. The Society had taken over the Stamford Urban Group funds from the defunct Town Centre Partnership and now held money to be used on their projects.

6. Election of Chairman

The election of Mrs Gibbs as Chairman was proposed by Mr Barry, seconded by Ms Meads and carried with a majority of 68:1, following an intervention from the floor by Mr Gilman.

7. Election of Officers

The election of the Treasurer, Mr Grimes, was proposed by Mr Stean, seconded by Mr Sockett and carried unanimously. The election of the Secretary/Membership Secretary, Mrs Sockett, was proposed by Mrs Stanier, seconded by Mr Thompson and carried unanimously.

8. Election of Committee

The election of the Committee en bloc was proposed by Mr Grimes, seconded by Mrs Sockett and carried nem con.

9. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the subscription fee should remain unaltered for the following year at £10 for a single member, and £15 for two members at the same address.

10. At the close of AGM business, Mr Rock welcomed the speaker, Mr Nick Boles, MP.

STAMFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Society's Special General Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at Browne’s Hospital at 7.30pm.

Members Present

Mr R Barry, Mr K Blyth, Mr W Bunney, Dr J Chatterton, Dr & Mrs L Davis, Mr M Dawson, Mr P Eastwood, Mr & Mrs R Fuggle, Mr & Mrs J Gibbs, Mr E Gilman, Mr & Mrs J Gleeson, Mr M Grimes, Mrs A Hall, Mr P Heyes, Mr & Mrs G Hopkinson, Mr J Hopson, Mr & Mrs R Humm, Mr & Mrs T Livock, Mr & Mrs R Mann, Mr & Mrs K Mayer, Ms C Meads, Mrs J Orpin, Mr J Pattinson, Dr G Rowlands, Mrs M Smith, Mr & Mrs M Sockett, Mr D Sones, Air Commodore P Stean, Mr P Stevens, Mr M Thompson and Mrs G Williams.

Apologies for Absence

Mr O Rock, Ms J Bateman, Mrs J Bevan, Mrs C Camp, Canon & Mrs K Court, Mr & Mrs P Dale, Mr & Mrs D Ellis, The Rev Canon Dr D Gray, Ms M Mitchell, Mr A Patience, Mr J Roberts, Mrs M Sims, Mr & Mrs H Smith, Mr J Smith, Mr & Mrs E Stanley, Ms A Sunderland, The Very Rev & Mrs M Warrick, Mr & Mrs P Willoughby-Ellis.

Chairman’s Introduction

Mrs Gibbs paid tribute to former chairman John Plumb, who had died recently. She stated that he had made a great contribution to the continued success of the Society: the present form of the Society, the social side, the annual awards, and outreach to the community were all created under his chairmanship.

Mrs Gibbs also passed on apologies from the President, Mr O Rock, whose work commitments had prevented his attendance.

Motion

The signatures of 20 members had been received requisitioning a Special General Meeting of the Society to be held for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing one resolution. **The one motion before the SGM was :- that the draft constitution produced to the meeting and, for the purposes of identification, initialled by the Chairman, be adopted as the constitution of the Society in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing constitution**.

Proposed Amendment

As a proposed amendment suggested by Mr E Gilman, copies of which were supplied to each member present, directly affected the Chairman, it was agreed by the members that Mr M Grimes, the Treasurer, would take the Chair for the next part of the meeting. Mr Gilman suggested that the constitution should contain the clause:- “The Chairman of the Society whilst in office should not seek election to Stamford Town Council, South Kesteven District Council or Lincolnshire County Council. Any person seeking office as Chairman of the Society who is already an elected Councillor on one or more of these three bodies should provide an undertaking that upon their election as Chairman of the Civic Society they will promptly resign as an elected Councillor.” After Mr Gilman had spoken in support of his amendment, Mr Grimes asked if there was a seconder for the proposed amendment. As there was not, the proposed amendment fell.

The Motion Vote

The motion [detailed above] proposed by Mr Grimes and seconded by Mr M Sockett, was then put to the vote. Of the 41 present, 1 voted against, 6 abstained and 34 voted in favour of the motion. The motion was therefore carried.

Mr Grimes declared the Special General Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

2014 Chairman’s report

I would like to welcome you all to the 2014 Civic Society AGM, and Awards Ceremony.

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome Orlando to the meeting and to thank him for his help and support during the year;.

My thanks also to all the committee members who, as usual have helped enormously; without their efforts we could not continue. In particular, my thanks to Melanie and Martin, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and a special thanks to our planning subcommittee; they have had a busy year, what with plans for the rear of the properties on the south side of St Mary's Street, the proposed Kier development on the south side of the town, the possible new-build on the Meadows and the replacement building on the Newage site. We continue to work with SDKC's Conservation Officer with the aim of preserving the essential Stamford, while still encouraging its prosperity.

Socially, we had a good year; events included a private visit to Peterborough Museum in November and talks on a variety of subjects ranging from Chinese concubines to historic pubs in the spring. Gil Darby's talk about Wedgwood has resulted in a plan to visit the museum in Stoke on Trent in 2015. Hirst Conservation's talk about damage to stone and the subsequent information published in the Newsletter was of great help to those living in the centre of Stamford.

The Special General Meeting to accept an updated constitution was followed by the Members’ evening round the fire at Browne’s for an informal chat and a glass of wine to discuss ideas for the Society’s future. This has now gone firmly into our diaries as an annual event (the members' meeting, not the SGM!).

A visit to St Leonard’s Priory looks like it has also turned into a regular event; this year it was in the evening of Midsummer’s day for Vespers, and we thank the members of St. Mary's Church who came along for the Service.

Summer outings were a visit to King’s Lynn and a special tour of Oakham castle.

The Sundial project has continued, with projects involving the Community, including talks, visits by students to a stone quarry, children testing the new town trail and a media project involving students form New College. At this point, I am going to stop talking for a few moments; we have a brief presentation on the Media Project for you, and I am delighted that Yvonne Davison Clissitt from New College is here with two of her students to introduce it.

At the last AGM, I mentioned the Stone Trail that was out of print. I am delighted to tell you that is no longer true, mainly thanks to John Smith who helped me check it out and fix all the changes since it was last revised over 10 years ago. It is now on sale at the Library at the bargain price of £1; all proceeds stay in Stamford for the good of the Library, so please do go and get yourselves one.

The Urban Group, who concern themselves with issues around Stamford and are now part of the Civic Society have been busy. Among other projects, railings near the bus station have been painted, the phone box by the George is being turned into an information point, and most important of all, the Group managed the restoration of the planter in the High Street.

At the SGM we mentioned the possibility of tidying up the land by the Bastion. I am delighted to tell you this is now going ahead, with the help of LCC and also financial help in the form of a grant from the Skells' Trust.

Coming events include a talk by Canon Donald Grey on Thursday 23rd October, **entitled** “Bless and Tell” and one on Thursday November 27t**h**  when David Pennell, the Estate Director for the Burghley Estate will be talking about the day to day issues and intricacies of looking after the Estate's listed properties in Stamford. Both of these are at Browne's Hospital, starting at 7.30 and the cost remains at £3.50.

The 2015 program is under discussion; some possibilities were published in the last newsletter and comments on any of them would be very welcome.

January will see the publication of our first Annual Review; Carol and Jocelyn have been working extremely hard to put this together and I think you are going to be very impressed by the result.

May I remind you that copies of the Dave Baxter book are available for sale at £9 per copy. Also on the desk at the door is a flyer for a Local History Society meeting, where the speaker is John Smith, so please take a look at that, if you haven't already.

My final thanks are as usual to all our members, for all your support throughout the year. As usual, after the Awards presentations, we will be serving a glass or so of wine, and I hope you will stay on for that.

Gwyneth Gibbs  
October 2014



