2017 Chairman’s report

I would like to welcome you all to the 2017 Civic Society AGM, We are as always grateful to Orlando for joining us.

This has been an eventful year, with the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the historic core of Stamford becoming the first conservation area, culminating in the exhibition and reception in the Arts Centre a couple of weeks ago. My thanks to all those who helped organise this, especially Carol Meads and Paul Eastwood and those who manned the exhibition to talk to visitors and sell our books and cards.

My thanks also to all the committee members for all their work and input during the year; without their efforts we could not continue.

We have a new committee member, Andrew Beeson who was co-opted during the year. But as you all know, the major change that is taking place is with regard to the Society's Secretary. After the best part of 10 years, Melanie is standing down from the role. I think you have all appreciated how much she has done for the Society and we, and myself in particular, will miss her very much.

However, we now have the good news! David Langridge has agreed to stand as Secretary, and subject to election in a couple of agenda items time, will be taking over from Melanie.

As always, we have monitored and commented on planning applications in the Conservation Area. We continue to work with SDKC's Conservation Officer with the aim of preserving the essential Stamford, while still encouraging its prosperity. On the highways front, we are working with LCC and Burghley to put together a scheme to protect the verges on the southern entrance to the town.

We are planning another blue plaque for the town. This one will be dedicated to Nelson Dawson, the artist and member of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Socially, we had a good year; events included talks by Gil Darby, Stuart Orme and Councillor David Taylor, a visit to Peterborough Cathedral and Grimsthorpe Castle. A fortunate group of ballot-winning members enjoyed a private visit to Burghley House, including the roof.

The annual members' meeting was held in March, when County Councillor David Brailsford spoke about Highway issues

A summer visit to St Leonard’s Priory has turned into a regular event; this year it was in July, with some live music.

There have been changes to the the Urban Group, with a number of members, most particularly Don Lambert, standing down from the group. Don has been an enthusiastic and hard working member of the group for many years, and we will miss him. David Taylor has offered to act as Chairman of this sub-group, Graddon Rowlands will continue to serve on the group, and Paddy Jelen will be joining them. She will also be continuing Peter Stevens' efforts to combat graffiti in the town. The Society has also been supporting Harrison & Dunn in their project to improve Mallory Lane.

The amount of time taken up by the 50th anniversary celebrations has limited the amount of event organisation, but tickets are now available for a visit to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society on the 14th November and a talk by local architect Simon Harris is scheduled for April 2018. We will be filling in the gaps soon, including of course the members' meeting in March or April.

January will see the publication of our fourth Annual Review; my thanks go as always to Carol and Jocelyn for all the work they do to put this together.

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

There is one more thing before we continue the meeting. Melanie, we have a small token of our appreciation of all you have done for the Society in general and the committee in particular over the years. It includes a card, which I hope most of the members here today have signed – if you haven't, please do so!

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Gwyneth Gibbs   
October 2017

STAMFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Society's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2016 in the Court Room of Stamford Town Hall.

Members Attending:

Mrs I Bacon, Mr D Baxter, Mr K Blyth, Mr W Bunney, Dr J Chatterton, Mr P Dale, Cllr. J Dawson, Mr P Eastwood, Mr R Fuggle, Mr & Mrs J Gibbs, Mrs M Gleeson, Mr M Grimes, Mr P Heath, Mr & Mrs P Heyes, Mr & Mrs G Hopkinson, Mr J Hopson, Mrs C Humm, Mr C Hunt, Mrs J Hunter, Ms P Jelen, Mr D Lambert, Mr & Mrs M Lander, Mr D Lankester, Mrs B Livock, Mr & Mrs J Mason, Mr K Mayer, Ms C Meads, Mrs B Meadows, Mrs B Measures, Mr & Mrs J Pattinson, Mr J E Roberts, Mr O Rock, Dr & Mrs G Rowlands, Mrs J Salsbury, Dr N Sheehan, Mrs M Smith, Mr & Mrs M Sockett, Mr & Mrs T Springett, Mrs C Stanier, Mr P Stevens, Mrs P Thomas, Mr M Thompson, Mr & Mrs M Williams

1. Welcome by our President

Mr Rock welcomed members and guests to the AGM and thanked The Mayor for allowing the Society to use the Town Hall.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mrs P Dale, Mr & Mrs D Ellis, Canon D Gray, Mrs U Jones, Mrs B Keene, Dr & Mrs D Langridge, Mr & Mrs J Lessey, Mr & Mrs P Loft, Mr G McFarlane, Mrs A Morris, Mrs G Meers, Mr D Nalson, Mr & Mrs T Padmore, Mrs P Sharp, Mr P Stean, Mr D Stimson, Major & Mrs D Stockman.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising from the 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were passed as read. There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairman’s Report

Mrs Gibbs welcomed Mr Rock, members and guests who would be receiving awards. She thanked all the Committee for their help and in particular the Officers. She also thanked Mr D Baxter for digitizing items from the Chris Mahany papers, and Canon Gray for providing the calligraphy for the award certificates. Two committee members were retiring at this meeting: Mr P Stevens, who had been a committee member for sixteen years and involved in so many Society projects; and Mrs G Williams, who had served on the committee for ten years. Mrs Gibbs also welcomed a new committee member to be elected, Ms P Jelen.

As always, the Society had monitored and commented on planning applications in the Conservation Area and continued to work with SKDC’s Conservation Officer to preserve the essential Stamford, while encouraging its prosperity. The Urban Group, now part of the Civic Society, had been busy as usual.

Socially, it had been another successful year, with interesting talks and tours and the Members’ Meeting, now an annual event in the spring. The Society’s notecards, designs by Karen Neale, had been launched at the St Leonard’s Priory summer event.

The Society’s third Annual Review, organized by Ms C Meads and Dr J Chatterton, would be published in January 2017.

Finally, Mrs Gibbs thanked all Members for their continuing support throughout the year.

A framed print was then presented by Mr Rock to Mrs G Williams and Mr P Stevens.

5. Treasurer’s Report and Adoption of Accounts

Copies of the yearly Accounts, checked by independent examiner Mr D Nicol, had been circulated before the meeting.

No big projects had been undertaken this year and subscriptions had held up well, at over 200. All taxpayers were encouraged to complete a Gift Aid form if they had not yet done so. The accounts showed a deficit on the General Account, largely due to investing in a range of notecards, to be sold over the coming months. The Society had renewed three of the information boards in town, planted spring bulbs at the Bastion and sponsored Karen Neale’s exhibition, involving a children’s cityscape, at the Arts Centre, and had supported the Urban Group’s initiative in refurbishing the lights on the Town Bridge. However, the Society was still in robust financial health, with adequate reserves.

Members received the accounts of the trustees and had no questions concerning them. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr M Lander and seconded by Mr M Sockett and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

6. Election of Chairman

The election of Mrs G Gibbs as Chairman had been proposed by Mr P Stean, seconded by Mr M Sockett and the motion was carried by a show of hands, nem.con.

7. Election of Officers

The election of the Treasurer, Mr M Lander, had been proposed by Dr G Rowlands, seconded by Mrs M Sockett, and carried by a show of hands, nem. con. The election of the Secretary/Membership Secretary, Mrs M Sockett, was proposed by Mr M Lander, seconded by Mr P Stevens and carried by a show of hands, nem.con.

8. Election of Committee

Dr J Chatterton, Ms P Jelen, Mr D Lankester, Ms C Meads, Dr G Rowlands, Mr M Sockett, Mr P Stean and Mr M Thompson had been nominated for election to the committee (all papers with the Secretary). They were all duly elected by a show of hands, nem. con.

9. 2017: 50 Years as a Conservation Area

Mrs Gibbs announced that the Society was organizing an exhibition in the Arts Centre from September 19th to 29th, partially at the same time as the Georgian Festival, to celebrate the town’s fiftieth anniversary as a Conservation Area. Working closely with SKDC, there would be a programme of special events. Civic Voice also planned to hold an event in the town in May or June, involving the Society running guided tours. There would also be a members’ only event at Burghley House, with Mr Rock kindly agreeing to act as guide.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Mr Rock presented Awards following the AGM.