The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 30 September 2020

Held as a virtual meeting using the Zoom Internet facility

Present: Robin Bynoe (Chairman and Trustee), Graham Page (Hon. Treasurer and Trustee), Paul Milliken (Hon. Secretary and Trustee), John Blaxter (Asst. Secretary and Trustee).

Voting Members : C J Apperley, Nicholas Birns, John Blaxter, Peter Brunning, Robin Bynoe, E W Hathaway, Neville Keery, Peter Kislinger, David Lowis, Jeffrey Manley (Trustee), Keith Marshall, Mark Meynell, Dr Derek Miles, Julian Miller, Paul Milliken, Graham Page, Gerald Parsons, Prue Raper (Trustee), Michael Skaife d'Ingerthorpe, Michael Swash, John Trotter, Ronald Wates.

1. Introduction

1. The Hon. Secretary, Paul Milliken, explained that the Trustees had decided in their meeting of July 29 2020 to hold the AGM virtually this year given the UK Government guidance on social distancing and travel designed to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.
2. The Trustees had also decided to keep the meeting as simple as possible in order that the required AGM business items could be transacted without delay. This had been achieved by limiting invitations to the virtual meeting and by using the Society's website and email as much as possible to share the business items with members and to receive votes on the items. Those few members who had not provided the Society with an email address had been sent material by post.
3. The required notice for the AGM had been given to members. The voting forms had been sent out on 29 August 2020 together with advice on how to access the business items material.
4. Votes for the business items were received by the Hon. Secretary from the members listed above – 22 in total.

2. To Confirm the Minutes of the 2019 AGM

1. The draft Minutes were confirmed as final with 21 votes in favour and 1 abstention.
2. The Hon. Secretary would forward these to the Chairman to sign.

3. To Receive and Confirm the 2020 Annual Report

1. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary had drafted the Report and made this available to members.
2. The Report covered the period up to the end of March 2020 and included details on membership, key events and developments as well as activities ensuring compliance both with the aims of the Society and with the requirements of the Charity Commission. The Report can be found on the Society's website at www.anthonypowell.org

3. The draft Report received 22 votes in favour with none against and with no abstentions and was confirmed as being accepted by members.

4. To Receive and Confirm the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020

1. The Hon Treasurer had prepared draft Accounts and these had been made available to members in advance as part of the 2020 Annual Report. The draft Accounts had also been independently scrutinised.
2. The Accounts showed a trading loss for the year of £2383 due principally to a high level of expenditure on publications. This expenditure had been considered by the Trustees as justified and consistent with the aims of the society.
3. Overall given that the Society's reserves remain healthy, the Hon. Treasurer concluded that the Society remained in a sound financial position.
4. The draft Accounts received 22 votes in favour with none against and with no abstentions and were confirmed as being accepted by the members. The Accounts can be found at the end of the 2020 Annual Report at www.anthonypowell.org

5. Elect up to Four Trustees

1. There are four vacancies : Robin Bynoe, Graham Page, Jeffery Manley and Prof. John Roe retire by rotation after their 3 year period.
2. The current Trustees have nominated all four existing Trustees for re-election. No other nominations had been received by the Hon. Secretary.
3. All four nominees each received 22 votes in favour, none against with no abstentions.
4. As a result the meeting approved the appointment of the above as Trustees for a further 3 year period.

6. Questions from members

1. Members had been asked to include these with their voting forms.
2. C J Apperley had asked about the AP Birthday Lunch arrangements in London. It was confirmed that this had been booked for 5 December 2020 at a London restaurant and details were in the Autumn 2020 *Newsletter*. However given the fluid position on Covid-19 restrictions this will be reviewed in October. Keith Marshall is the organiser contact and his contact details are in the *Newsletter*.
3. Michael Swash had asked about any plans to increase membership through use of articles or letters in literary journals such as the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *London Review of Books* and their equivalents in the USA. The Chairman commented that Trustees discussed this regularly. It was felt to be a useful option but would require the co-operation of a well known literary figure or journalist who would be prepared to include a reference to the Society as part of a review of an AP related publication. There were some options in this regard and these would be followed up.

This concluded the business of the 2020 AGM.

Paul Milliken
Hon. Secretary
3 October 2020