The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Saturday 18 October 2025

Held at St James's Church Piccadilly London W1

Members Present: Christine Apperley, John Blaxter (Asst. Secretary and Trustee), Geraint Dearman, Stephen Eggins, Stephen Holden, Geoffrey Levett, Paul Milliken (Hon. Secretary and Trustee), Kevin Newsom, Bernard Stacey (Trustee), Mary-Louise Stewart (Hon. Treasurer and Trustee), Elwin Taylor, Alison Walker, Stephen Walker.
Members Apologies : Robin Bynoe, Patric Dickinson, Colin Donald, Mike Jay, Ferdy Mount, Harry Mount, Keith Marshall, Noreen Marshall, John Moisson, Graham Page, John Roe

1. Welcome

1. Paul Milliken introduced our Officers and Trustees. Ferdy Mount our President had sent his apologies due to a family commitment. Robin Bynoe Chair of Trustees also sent his apologies due to travel difficulties. Paul then welcomed members and explained the order of business. Copies of the agenda, the draft 2024 Minutes and the draft 2025 Annual Report and Accounts were made available.

2. To Confirm the draft Minutes of the 2024 AGM

1. The draft Minutes were confirmed as final with 21 votes in favour including 8 proxy votes. No votes were cast against.
2. The Hon. Secretary signed the Minutes on behalf of the Chairman.

3. To Receive and Confirm the 2025 Annual Report

1. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary had drafted the Annual Report and made this available to members.
2. The Report covered the period up to the end of March 2025 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.
3. The Hon. Secretary presented the highlights in the Report and also mentioned some recent developments such as the planning for the 25th Society anniversary events held in June 2025. He noted that Robin Bynoe was standing down as Chairman of Trustees and that Bernard Stacey had agreed to take over from Robin. Members expressed their appreciation for Robin's service as Chairman and noted his contribution to the Society's publications which will continue. Paul also noted that Stephen and Alison Walker were standing down as Editor and Publisher of the Society's publications. Members expressed their appreciation for their contributions to the Society noting that the quality of the quarterly Newsletter was a highlight for many members.

4. The draft Report received 21 votes in favour including 8 proxy votes. No votes were cast against. The Report was confirmed as being accepted by members.

4. To Receive and Confirm the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

1. The Hon Treasurer had prepared draft Accounts and these had been made available to members in advance as part of the 2025 Annual Report. The draft Accounts had also been independently scrutinised.
2. The Accounts showed a deficit of £1181 largely due to the developments for the new website. Postage costs had also increased significantly especially those for overseas postings. Income (£11565) was largely unchanged from last year. It was also noted that investment income had improved due to better deposit rates.
3. Overall given that the Society's reserves remained healthy, the Hon. Treasurer confirmed that the Society was in a sound financial position.
4. The Hon. Treasurer concluded by thanking both Charlotte Bainbridge for scrutinising the accounts and also Graham Page her predecessor for his guidance and support.
5. The draft Accounts received 21 votes in favour including 8 proxy votes with none against. The Accounts were confirmed as being accepted by the members. The Annual Report and Accounts can be found on the Society's website at www.anthonypowell.org

5. Elect Four Trustees

1. There were three vacancies due to the expiration of their 3 year term for Colin Donald, Harry Mount and Mary Louise Stewart; all three had confirmed their willingness to continue and had been nominated by the Trustees. In addition there was one vacancy resulting from Paul Milliken stepping down. John Moisson was nominated by the Trustees to fill this vacancy. No other nominations had been received.
2. Harry Mount, Mary Louise Stewart and John Moisson each received 21 votes in favour, including 8 proxy votes with none against. Colin Donald received 20 votes in favour including 8 proxy votes with 1 against.
3. As a result the meeting the above were elected as Trustees of the Society each for a 3 year term.

6. Hon. Secretary's comments

Paul Milliken started by mentioning the urgent need for a volunteer to take over from Keith Marshall as Membership Secretary. The introduction of online membership renewal via the website would reduce some the administrative load.

Paul added that as he was stepping down as a Trustee and Secretary he was glad to confirm that John Moisson now elected as a Trustee would take over as Secretary. John unfortunately could not be present due to a family commitment. The meeting expressed appreciation for Paul's contribution to the Society.

Paul asked for questions and suggestions from members present. He added that a member providing a proxy vote had urged caution on subsidising events given that the Society was running at a loss and had done in the two previous years. Members present noted this point but felt that subsiding events was appropriate provided that the events contributed to the Society's aims and that reserves could be called upon as and when

required. The Hon. Treasurer confirmed that the Society's reserves remained sufficient for this purpose.

Stephen Walker commented that in recent AGM's the Trustees had confirmed their aim to identify projects that could be funded from reserves but had failed to make much progress. He suggested that the Trustees should develop a 3 year plan to reduce the level of reserves by utilising them to further the Society's objectives. It was agreed to raise this suggestion with Trustees.

Stephen Eggins asked that Trustees be more active to market the Society using social media. He mentioned some examples used by other literary bodies including the Drones Club podcasts. Paul added that the Society had a developed a social media strategy but agreed that more resource would be helpful. The Society had focussed on improving the appearance and content of the website.

Paul mentioned that a Society conference was now overdue but required volunteers for the organisation. Stephen Walker suggested that given the healthy state of the reserves the Society should consider hiring a professional conference organiser. Paul agreed to put this suggestion to the Trustees.

Geoff Levett asked whether postage costs could be reduced by offering the Newsletter in online rather than print form, especially to overseas members. Paul answered that this had been considered by the trustees and might still be a possibility to put to members as an option but that there were strong arguments for maintaining the print version, given the quality of the publication. As well as being enjoyed by members, the newsletter is a tangible promotion of the work of AP. However given the increasing cost of postage and the costs of posting material to the USA this option would be kept under review by Trustees.

Paul concluded the AGM by thanking on Robin's behalf all those who had contributed to the Society during the year including our Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary and also welcomed Bernard Stacey as our new Trustee Chair. He also thanked our Patron John Powell and the Powell and Mount families for their support.

The AGM was then followed by a quiz conducted by Bernard Stacey who also provided some AP related prizes.

Paul Milliken
Hon. Secretary
23 October 2025