

## **Minutes of the Friends of Lytham Hall AGM held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 on Zoom at 7.30pm**

**Present:** L. Dopping-Hepenstal, T. and S. Jones, K. Smith, R. Smith, P. Beeden, M. and D. Coupe, M. and I. Hargreaves, M. Smith, J. Hornyak, E. Guffogg, A. Joynt, C. Barnett, H. Clifton, B. Hankinson, A. Wilde, P. Anthony and S. Dopping-Hepenstal.

**Apologies** were received from:

D. Kitt, S. Havenhand, J. Smith, D. Gill, A. Turner, E. Watts, J. and J. Edwell and J. and D. Lloyd.

**Minutes:**

Acceptance of the 2020 AGM minutes was proposed by M. Smith and seconded by T. Jones.

**Matters Arising:**

**Constitution:**

Rather than remove the 6-year limit of term of office, allow extension through exceptional circumstances.

**Membership benefits:**

Online talks for members with Marion Blaauboer offering to give a talk on John Talbot Clifton.

**Harry Clifton 'Ghost Telegrams':**

M. Blaauboer was looking into finding a copy of the tapes -not a Friends' action.

**Chairman's Report**

A copy of the full report is filed with these minutes.

The Friends of Lytham Hall is the only charity dedicated solely to the preservation of Lytham Hall [ and Parkland] for the local community.

**Management committee**

Pam Greenhill has retired from the committee, having moved to Australia. The chairman thanked her for the huge contribution she has made to the Friends over the years. Pam was also the Friends' representative on the Lytham Town Trust Board.

Amanda Joynt and Sue Jones have joined the committee.

Amanda has taken on the task of improving our social media profile and Sue, one of the Hall guides has organised a full programme of monthly talks for members.

Hugh Clifton has accepted the invitation to become Vice President.

**Charity Objectives**

1. To preserve for the benefit of the local community and the nation at large, Lytham Hall together with its works of art, furniture and contents.
2. To ensure that the Hall is used primarily as an art gallery, museum and visitor centre and to provide other amenities of a similar character for the benefit of the public.

**Fundraising, Events and sales**

***In the accounting period June 2020 to May 2021***

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions the following fundraising events had to be cancelled:

- Outdoor theatre refreshments
- Halloween Spooktacular
- Christmas Cheer
- Snowdrop Shop
- Easter Bunny Hunt

### Calendars

Thanks to a donation from Brian and Gill Hatcher, two calendars - one of the Hall interiors and one of the Exterior, were produced. These sold well.

### Bookshop

Our second-hand bookshop in the west wing remained open when possible.

### Zoom Talks

A programme of monthly Zoom Talks started in November 2020. There is no income from these but they are a way of keeping in touch with members:

- 'The Clifton Brothers Arctic Adventure of 1897', Hugh Clifton
- 'Socialising with John Talbot Clifton', Marianne Blaauboer
- 'The Fairs: Managers of a Great Estate', Thomas Hewitt
- 'The Servants of the Cliftons' Parts 1 & 2, Peter Watson
- 'The Vision and Achievements at Lytham Hall from 2017', Steve Williams
- 'The Colonel's Lady - Eleanor Cecily Clifton', Denise Hadley

### Income Generation

Our income came from Membership fees, events, sales of books, bags and pens, J.T. Clifton and Harry Clifton booklets, calendar sales, daffodils and some generous donations.

### Project Donations

The Friends contributed to:

- Drive repairs
- Exterior painting of the North and South aspects of the West Wing and Courtyard
- Materials for the restoration of the Parterre
- Repairs to the wooden footbridge at the end of the East lawn.
- Materials for the expansion of the Woodland Car Park

Through specific donations we were able to provide funds for:

- Painting the rear staircase in the Georgian Hall
- Restoring the Diana statue to the Parterre
- Setting up an archive room

### Current Projects:

- Eleanor Cecily Clifton Recipe Book.
- Hall Guide Book [the first print run]
- Upgrading the Stables Car Park - an application for a grant for part funding from FC
- Calendar 2022 - which has now gone to the printers.

[Approximately £10.5k in total].

### Next Events

The **Halloween Spooktacular** went ahead last weekend in awful weather conditions but still attracted almost 1,000 visitors, making a profit of £4.5k. A great effort involving the committee, members and Hall volunteers.

**Christmas Cheer** - 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Christmas Civic Society/Friends Coffee Morning** - 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Zoom Talks:**

17<sup>th</sup> November - Hugh Clifton, '25 items of Clifton Family History and their Stories'

15<sup>th</sup> December - Austin Holmes, 'John Carr'

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, T. Jones, presented the accounts.

<b>Current Assets:</b>	Bank current account	£21,343
	Deposit Fund account	£ 31,363
	Cash in Hand	£ <u>0</u>
	Total	£ <u>52,706</u>

Paypal Giving has been set up and brought in £1, 942.

Income from membership fees has increased from £2,627 to £5,512.

We are looking for an account which pays more interest,

The accounts have been inspected by an independent examiner, Rev. A. Clements.

**Acceptance of the Annual Report and Financial Statement** was Proposed by  
by P. Beeden and seconded by R. Smith.

## **Membership**

P. Beeden and J. Hornyak's efforts, and a successful recruitment drive have resulted in significantly increased membership numbers which now stand at 252 - 63 of which are patrons. This has doubled the income from fees.

## **Constitution**

Updates to our constitution were proposed to bring it in line with current operational practices. Details of these are attached to these minutes.

Acceptance of these changes was approved by a unanimous vote.

## **Election of Committee**

Under the rules of the constitution, K. Smith, M. Coupe and M. Hargreaves were retiring from the committee this year. They all offered to stand for re-election - proposed by B. Hankinson and seconded by M. Smith, and were re-elected unanimously.

There were no new nominations for committee.

The re-election of Honorary officers was proposed by J. Hornyak, seconded by M. Coupe and carried by a majority vote.

## **A.O.B.**

There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 20.40hrs.

**The Friends of Lytham Hall**  
**Registered Charity Number 1069442**

## Constitution Updates 2021

The following updates to our constitution were proposed to bring it in line with current operational practices:

### **2. Objects and Powers**

2.1 The objects of the Friends are:

2.1.1 To work with Lytham Town Trust Limited ("the Trust"), **Heritage Trust for the North West ("HTNW")** and any other interested or relevant body to preserve for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Fylde region of Lancashire and of the nation at large the land, estate and buildings known as Lytham Hall off Ballam Road, Lytham, Lancashire together with the works of art, furniture, and contents of Lytham Hall

2.1.2 To work with the Trust, **HTNW** and any other interested or relevant body to procure the provision of and maintain the use of an art gallery, museum, visitor centre, **parkland** and other amenities of a similar character for the benefit of the community of the Fylde region of Lancashire and of the nation at large at Lytham Hall with the object of advancing education and to help to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the outstanding architectural merit of Lytham Hall and its ancillary buildings and of the works of art, furniture and other contents of Lytham Hall and of works of art to be introduced to Lytham Hall and generally to improve the quality of life of the community living within the said Fylde region of Lancashire and of the nation at large through the use and enjoyment of Lytham Hall **and its parkland.**

2.1.3 To support the charitable work of the Trust **and HTNW, the leaseholders**, restricted to the Trust's and **HTNW's** charitable work relative to Lytham Hall.

### **Membership**

3.9 Membership annual subscription payment date amended from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to annually on the date of joining to give greater flexibility for membership recruitment.

### **Executive Committee**

4.1 The maximum number of committee members increased from 10 to 15.

4.9.1 Charities Act reference updated from 1992 to 2011.

### **Honorary Officers**

5.2 Added that honorary officers can hold the same honorary office beyond a continuous period of six years "in exceptional circumstances" to reflect the difficulty of finding members with sufficient time to devote to a small charity.

5.3 Added "independent examiners" as an alternative to auditors "as required by the reporting requirements of the Charity Commission" to reflect that the income of the charity has not been triggering the income levels for a full audit.

### **Meetings of the Friends**

6.1 Clarifying that the General Meeting of the Friends will be held annually and adding that the meeting may be held as either at a physical location or virtually using a web based provision.

### **Nominations of Committee Members**

7.2 Reducing the number of full members required to support a nomination for a committee member from 15 to 2.

### **Rules of Procedure at all Meetings**

8.1 Split this section into two parts to separately address the quorum required for a meeting of the Friends and of the Committee to remove an ambiguity. For a *General Meeting* of the Friends, a quorum is not less than 10 full members. For a meeting of the Committee, a quorum is one third of the committee membership.

8.3 Remove "Minute books" and replace with "Minutes" to reflect that the minutes are now stored as computer files.

### **Finance**

9.3 Added "examiner" as for 5.3.

9.5 Added the provision for using "on line payments" in addition to cheques.

9.6 Updated the applicable version of the Charities Act from 1992 to 2011.

### **Notices**

14.1 Added the provision to send notices by "email".