

Minutes for the 70th AGM of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 1.45pm OBE Chapel

It was noted that the Financial report for 2021, the Minutes of the previous AGM held in December 2021 and a form for nomination to Friends Council were all sent in advance via email and hardcopy ahead of the AGM.

Prayers & Welcome

The Acting Chairman, the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral welcomed everyone to the 70th Friends Annual General Meeting and opened the meeting at 1.55pm with the Friends Prayer.

Apologies for absence notified in advance

Apologies received from:

Margaret Rates,	Robin and Anne Bawtree,
Joan and Bryan Page	Garth Owens
Mary Ellis	Sheila Nicoll
Ruth Page	Yvonne Jackman
Kitty and Robert Malleson	Jean Burbidge
William Gloyn	Caroline Barnett
Roger Walkinton	Sir Timothy and Lady Daunt.

There were 90 places booked to attend the meeting, due to extremely hot weather 67 Friends were in attendance.

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 7th December 2021

It was noted as a matter of accuracy that Roger Walkinton's name was spelt incorrectly.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2021 AGM. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Elections

The Dean explained there were five vacancies on the Friends Council and we have four nominations. Mike Tadman, Yodia Lo and Niul Dillion Hatcher were standing for re-election and Alexander Hendry who is a Volunteer at the Cathedral, is a new nomination.

The Dean asked all attendees at the meeting if anybody wanted to stand for election to fill the last vacancy.

No members came forward.

The Dean proposed that Mike Tadman and Yodia Lo be re-appointed to the Friends Council. All members were in agreement.

The Dean proposed that Alexander Hendry be elected to the Friends Council.

All members were in agreement.

The Dean proposed that Niul Dillon Hatcher be co-opted on the Friends Council. All members were in agreement.

The Dean thanked the retiring members of the Council, Robert Palmer, Jean Reed and Phillip Rice for all their service on the Friends Council.

Phillip Rice asked to say a few words, he commended the Cathedral team for their hard work and thanked the Volunteers, Friends and staff for all they do. Phillip Rice thanked Nicky Wynne, Director of Development and the Development team for their fantastic work and he especially thanked the Dean for a splendid lecture at the 2021 AGM and wished him well for his retirement. Phillip Rice sent his prayers to the next Council team.

Update from the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral

The Dean introduced Reverend Canon, Dr Neil Evans as the new Canon Steward at the Cathedral. The Dean explained Canon Evans has been elected by Chapter to join the Friends Council.

The Dean gave an update on the Cathedral and explained after a very stressful two years due to Covid we are now seeing an increase in visitor numbers including the overseas market. The Cathedral is currently trying to encourage more overseas visitors with a new marketing campaign, the Jubilee Exhibition is a great example.

The Dean thanked the Friends for their contribution to the Whispering Gallery safety project and explained there is an agreed design and work will commence later in 2022.

The Dean gave an update on the Library and explained the refurbishment is almost complete, there is a small amount of work to be finished on the climate control panels. The books will be returned shortly and we are looking at opening in the Spring of 2023.

The Dean explained the Ball and Cross needs repairing and it will be a major project to raise the money required and then complete the work. The scaffolding alone will cost £2m.

The Dean mentioned the Girls' Choir has been announced and the Cathedral is very much looking forward to the girls joining. Work will need to be done on the boarding house to accommodate girls and boys.

The Dean also commented on the Platinum Jubilee service which showed the Cathedral at its best. The Dean explained he had received a lot of fantastic feedback from the public, the Palace and members of the City.

Fundraising Update, Nicky Wynne, Director of Development

Nicky Wynne thanked David Ison for his incredible work over the last 10 years and wished him well in his retirement.

Nicky Wynne explained that the Friends are now digital which means we can attract a wider audience.

Nicky Wynne mentioned the Cathedral now has five Tap to Donate points which are proving to be very successful. The Cathedral still needs income to cover various projects and we will shortly have a list of 625 items we need to raise funds for. Nicky Wynne thanked the Friends for the donation of £50,000 for the Whispering Gallery Safety project and said the work should hopefully be completed in Spring 2023.

Nicky Wynne updated the Friends on the Remember Me project and explained we still need to raise £1.5m to complete phase three.

Financial update, Rachel Taylor, Finance Manager

Rachel Taylor introduced herself to the floor and explained the Friends audit of the accounts for year ending 31st December 2021 was complete with no matters arising. Total income for the year was approximately £98,000. That was £24,000 higher than in 2020, mainly due to an increase in legacy income. Rachel Taylor explained that subscription income was slightly lower in 2021 compared to 2020.

Rachel Taylor explained the accounts had been approved by the Friends Council at the last meeting held in May 2022.

The Dean asked the floor were they content to receive the 2021 accounts, all members present agreed.

Rachel Taylor proposed that West Wake Price should be appointed again as auditors for 2022, all members present agreed.

Rachel Taylor explained the following grants had been awarded to the Cathedral in 2021:

£50k Remember Me
£50k Whispering Gallery safety work
£20k Schools and Families
£10k Choristership

Samuel Ennis, a Friends Council member asked if the Cathedral finances were stable. Rachel Taylor replied that visitor numbers are increasing and 2021 visitor numbers are well ahead of the Cathedral's budget which had been set at a cautious level. David Ison explained that the Cathedral will hopefully be able to start building reserves in 2024 and 2025.

Any other business

A Friend asked if there were any plans to re-introduce a café in the Crypt.

The Dean explained the Cathedral has recently introduced a coffee cart and the Head of Commercial Services is negotiating with vendors for a full café.

A Friend explained that she had attended a service on Sunday and was surprised that a collection basket was not passed around.

The Dean explained that it was highly likely the baskets were passed around but unfortunately didn't make it to the area she was sitting.

It was noted and will be mentioned to the Sunday teams.

Several Friends asked for the venue to be changed for the next AGM.

A Friend mentioned that the AGM was previously held in Stationers Hall and asked could it be arranged to be held there again.

Louise Pollicott, Membership Manger explained that other venues had been looked at but it was felt that this was an unnecessary expense at this time. Louise Pollicott also explained that due to other factors, the OBE Chapel had been chosen for this year but wouldn't set a precedent. The venue for the AGM will be reviewed each year.

A Friend asked could visits to Livery companies be organised again.
Louise Pollicott explained that she would look in to visits to various venues for 2023.

The meeting was closed at 2.58pm

Following the meeting, The Friends enjoyed refreshments, kindly donated by a Friends member, followed by a lecture from Nicholas Orme, Emeritus Professor at Exeter University.