

MINUTES of the 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MELBOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY, at the Assembly Rooms, Melbourne, on Monday 25th March 2013 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr. N Wright: Chairman, Mrs P Adams: Secretary, Mr D. Calvert: Treasurer, Committee members: Mr. M Busfield, Mrs L Bazley, Mr. B Budd, (Vice Chairman), Dr. P. Grimley, (AICC representative), Mrs. B Simpson, Mrs C Sturges, Mr B. Thomas and Mr I. Turner.

Also present: 24 members and 1 visitor

#### **1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 39th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Civic Society.

#### **2. Apologies.**

J.Sheppard, J. Grimley, P.Budd and M.Wright

#### **3. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Acceptance proposed by M. Calow, seconded by D. Desborough and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

He was pleased to report that the Society continued to thrive and that all talks, event and working parties continued to be well supported. He doubted that litter picking would ever become unnecessary.

He expressed sadness at the death in the past year of Nolan Daly and Bunty Ernil.

The restoration of the Monument in Castle Square had been completed just in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at which the Civic Society took a major role in the opening ceremony. Financing the restoration had been a truly joint effort between Derbyshire County Council, Parish Council, East Midlands Airport and the Civic Society.

The publication of a second Walks Book in May had proved a great success with almost 400 sold already. East Midlands Airport also gave a grant towards this.

From time to time the Society awards grants to organisations which have similar aims and show pressing need for support. Two awards of £1000 were made this year. Melbourne Transitions Group had help to establish a food forest at Melbourne Junior School and the newly formed Footpaths Group had help to purchase a Walkers are Welcome map case. This group is also carrying out a renovation of the gate into Brown's field on Penn Lane with timber kindly donated by John Blunt.

Barry Thomas works with dedication on all walks related issues and is also producing a new Town Trail Guide. His guidance and organizational skills are much valued.

The planning sub-committee, under the guidance of Ian Turner, continues to monitor planning applications. For the most part these are minor but the traffic and parking debate will always complicate any larger scale project.

The society has objected to the application to delist the Melbourne Arms fearing a future major development on the site.

The Local Planning Framework does not involve any major developments in Melbourne but the plans for an area to the South East of side of Chellaston could have future implications for local access to the school there.

A revised airport master plan is scheduled this year but it is dependent on the publication of Governments paper on Aviation Framework which was due this month. Dr Paul Grimley has submitted a Master Plan Review for 2012 to the Airport Independent Consultative Committee which has been warmly received by all members.

The stewardship of the Holy Well continues. Following past problems graffiti had been removed and a protective coating applied. Wild daffodil and bluebells have been planted. The water is now flowing once again.

For many years Ian Turner has kindly stored the Society's archive of printed matter books and photographs at his house. Under an arrangement with the Assembly Rooms committee the archive is now stored centrally in the former police room.

By custom the Chairman holds office for three years and as he handed over to Brian Budd he thanked all the committee members for their hard work and support during his term in office.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

Pam Adams reported that membership was doing well at almost 200. Linda Bazley, who had taken over as Membership Secretary, was hoping this would rise as a result of her forthcoming recruitment drive. Membership leaflets were due to be distributed in the next edition of the Village Voice in Melbourne.

The Civic Society continued to subscribe to organisations sympathetic to their ideals. Chief among them was Civic Voice which champions the cause of all civic societies by maintaining a high profile in the media by promoting campaigns and organizing protests where needed. They were influential in their criticism of the government's new planning proposals.

She hoped members found something of interest in the variety of talks in the past year. As it started with keeping bees, progressed to the unmentionable habits of the past and finished with planting fruit trees via map reading and alabaster tombstones she thought something must have been learnt along the way!

The visit to Sinai Park House had been so interesting that the owner was coming to talk about it in April and promised to include the ghostly goings on there as well.

Neil Wright had now nobly taken over the task of booking the programme and he had come up with items such as Cromford Canal, Darley Abbey, Mumming plays and Cheddleton Flint Mill to whet the appetite.

As most speakers use their laptops for PowerPoint presentations nowadays, the Society had invested in a digital projector for the use of visiting speakers and would put it to good use at Exhibitions to illustrate what the Civic Society does. A good quality projector screen would be the next buy.

The Midsummer Evening was the usual social highlight of the year despite the wet and cold weather. The catering from Claire Sturges and Barbara Simpson was, if possible, better than ever.

Claire also excelled herself in her preparation for the excellent Exhibition at the Arts Festival in September. It was based round the publication of our second Walks Book and had some lovely photographs to illustrate the walks featured in the book. With the addition of Barry Thomas's feature on the work of the newly formed Footpaths Group it proved an excellent shop window for the Civic Society.

The Christmas Coffee Morning had been a festive occasion and relatively well attended considering that people had so much to do at that time of the year.

The Spring and Autumn Litter Picks continued to get reliably good support and expressed regret that it was still much needed.

The Newsletter continued to be published quarterly in the capable hands of Hilary Turner. Printing and postage costs continued to rise but it is an important way of keeping members informed. There were gradually more email subscribers but more would be welcome. Barry continued to manage the website as it slowly begins to play a more central role as a communication point for the Civic Society.

The Secretary had been in her post for five years and was finding it increasingly demanding on her time so she was relieved that some of her duties had been taken over by other committee members. Her grateful thanks went to Neil for taking over the programme bookings and organizing the Civic Award, to Linda for taking over membership duties and to Brian for putting up the posters. She also thanked Barry who worked tirelessly on so many projects and everyone else who pulled their weight in so many ways.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

David Calvert reported another successful year. It was difficult to compare overall figures from year to year as so many varied and often one-off activities were involved. However normal revenue items remained similar. A new Walks Book had been produced with sales doing well with a wider range of distribution points.

The Special Reserve account funds were being used and may reduce quicker in view of the current low interest rates. It was the wish of the testator that both capital and interest should be used for the purpose of beautifying Melbourne with trees and flowers.

The Midsummer Event again made a surplus as catering is done in-house.

He was happy that the Society was in a sound financial position and able to meet its commitments in the foreseeable future. The funding of any future substantial projects would be properly investigated and secured by the Committee before any commitment.

Acceptance of accounts was proposed by I. Turner and seconded by B.Budd.

## 8. 2013 Civic Society Award Winner

The award is given for the most outstanding example of new building, renovation or landscape conversion completed in Melbourne or Kings Newton during the last twelve months. The following criteria apply: quality of design, standard of workmanship, impact on the street scene and conservation ideals.

There were 8 nominations for the Award this year.

Melbourne Pool: Removing understory shrubs on the islands and clearing part of intake wood has opened up the views across the pool.

Muniment Room roof: The removal and faithful replacement of the 250 year old roof is part of the plan to bring the Muniment Room back into regular use.

45 Potter Street: The chimney stacks have been raised and re-modelled to further enhance the appearance of this prominent house.

21 High Street: Installation of original pattern windows to the rear elevation adds to the transformation of the former mill building.

The One Off, Derby Road: Refurbishment has been completed with the addition of a glass and gold leaf cupola on top of the building.

67 Derby Road: The old render has been removed to expose the original brickwork and by installing a new door, windows, cills and lintels to original designs this house fits perfectly with its neighbours.

Church Street development: A new development on the site of an incongruous bungalow has used period details to reflect nearby properties

Shaw House, Robinson's Hill: An outstanding example of workmanship to construct a reproduction of the original dilapidated conservatory.

Judging took place on March 19th The panel consisted of:-

Mr. Tony Short	Visiting Architect
Mrs. Wendy Earp	Melbourne Parish Council
Mr. Neil Wright	Chairman, Melbourne Civic Society
Mrs. Barbara Simpson	Civic Society Committee Member
Mr. Ian Turner	Chair Civic Society planning sub-committee
Mr. David Platt	Civic Society Members Representative

All the nominees were praised by the judges and were pleased to see the use of local craftsmen. After a long deliberation it was unanimously agreed that the **Civic Award** this year should be presented to D. and M. Bailey for work carried out at **67 Derby Road**.

"The removal of existing rendering and the replacement, to a high standard, of the doors and windows with period designs satisfied all the judging criteria"

The judges **commended** the **Melbourne Hall Muniment Roof** for the first class workmanship and its visual impact.

## 9. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Nominations for officers were received as follows:-

		Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Brian Budd	Ian Turner	Barbara Simpson
Secretary	Pam Adams	Neil Wright	Barry Thomas
Treasurer	David Calvert	Paul Grimley	Malcolm Busfield

The post of Vice Chairman remained open.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to approve the election of these Officers for 2012/13

Nominations for Committee Members have been received as follows:-

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Linda Bazley	Malcolm Busfield	Paul Grimley
Malcolm Busfield	Linda Bazley	Paul Grimley
Dr Paul Grimley	Malcolm Busfield	Linda Bazley
John Sheppard	Brian Budd	Pam Adams
Barbara Smpson	Claire Sturges	Pam Adams
Claire Sturges	Pam Adams	Neil Wright
Barry Thomas	Dave Calvert	Paul Grimley
Ian Turner	Barry Thomas	Claire Sturges
Neil Wright	Ian Turner	Dave Calvert

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to approve the election of the Committee for 2013/2014

The retiring Chairman then vacated the chair and the newly elected Chairman took over the meeting.

Before closure of the meeting there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Being no questions the Chairman closed the AGM at 7.52 p.m.