

MINUTES of the 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MELBOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY, at the Assembly Rooms, Melbourne, on Monday 31st March 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Officers: Mr. B. Budd: Chairman, Mr. B. Thomas: Vice Chair, Mrs P Adams: Secretary, Mr D. Calvert: Treasurer.

Committee members: Dr. P. Grimley, (AICC representative), Mrs. B Simpson, Mrs C Sturges, Mr I. Turner, Mr. N. Wright.

Also present: 33 Members and 2 non-members

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 40th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Civic Society.

2. Apologies.

J and T. Sheppard, L. Bazley, P Budd, M. Calow, P. Sturges and M. Keay.

3. Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Acceptance was proposed by I. Turner, seconded by N. Wright and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Brian welcomed everyone to the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Civic Society and the completion of his first year. He was pleased to announce that the Society continued to be in a healthy position regarding funds. The programme of talks and social events continued to be well supported.

He expressed sadness at the news of the recent death of William Hancock.

The Holy Well at Kings Newton continued to be maintained and last year it became listed as an "Asset of Community Value". This meant that the site could not be sold without the Society being informed about it. Its future status will be on the agenda for this year. The water is now flowing well, but that was to be expected following a very wet winter. He mentioned the planting of 100 English bluebells.

A tree had been replaced in the Crescent as one had died. It was doing well and was in blossom. No daffodil bulbs had been planted this year, as a survey was under way to check Melbourne to see where bulbs were needed. There would then be a rolling programme of planting in the coming years.

The Society's Planning Sub-committee, chaired by Ian Turner, continued to monitor all the local planning applications. Last year it was noted that after the de-listing of the Melbourne Arms a possible planning application was expected. The application arrived and the Society has strongly objected to it. The situation will continue to be monitored. There had also been a planning application for new buildings along Main Street, Kings Newton to which a strong objection has been made. A refusal by the Council has led to an appeal.

The Walk Books had both been selling very well over the last year and have now covered their costs so any sold now will make a profit for the funds. The new Melbourne Trail Guide had been completed and was now on sale in the Village. Thanks went to Barry Thomas for all he had done to get it on the shelves.

Melbourne Footpath Group had been very busy of late clearing paths, building steps and installing gates, some of which have been done for the National Forest. Their Melbourne

footpath signage connected with the Walkers are Welcome Town had now been erected in the grounds of the Senior Citizens Centre. The Society gave them some funds towards the sign.

Like other groups in Melbourne we were donated shares in the Whistlewood Common Project and its progress will be followed with interest.

Dr. Paul Grimley, our representative on the Airport Independent Consultative Committee, continued to work hard on our behalf by responding to aviation developments. He was in the process of reviewing the new Airport Master Plan.

As Melbourne Civic Society had been in existence for 40 years it was planned to celebrate this at the November meeting with a buffet instead of our normal refreshments. Further information would be available nearer to the date.

This year a shortened version of the Minutes of Committee Meetings would be printed in the Newsletter so that members can get some idea of what was discussed and the background to decisions. This is following requests from members.

In conclusion he thanked Committee members for all their help and guidance over his first year. His thanks went to Pam Adams, Secretary, without whom he would be lost, and to David Calvert our Treasurer. Thanks also went to Claire Sturges and Barbara Simpson for catering at our Summer and Winter Evenings; to Neil Wright for organizing our speakers; to Ian Turner for information on Planning; to Barry Thomas for Footpaths; to Paul Grimley for Airport information; to Malcolm Busfield for the loan of his home for our winter evening; to Linda Bazley for keeping our membership up to date and to John Sheppard who assists Barry on his walks and footpath repairs. He gave special thanks to someone who spends her time in the background doing a huge job of collating; preparing, editing and getting printed the items and reports in our Newsletters. That person was Hilary Turner.

6. Secretary's Report

Pam reported that membership has increased this year. The leaflet drop, by way of the Village Voice almost a year ago, had brought in extra members so, despite a few falling by the wayside, there was now a membership of 205. The membership fee would stay at £7 and £11. Linda Bazley had been a great help in taking over the management of the membership.

The Society continued to support, by subscription, Civic Voice; a national body that maintains a high profile in the media and parliament to further the cause of the civic society movement, We also have membership of the Historical Research Group and Sharpes Pottery as organizations that profile heritage issues. The Parish Church was supported this year with a grant so that it could open up the West side of the Church for better viewing.

Petitions had been signed against the threatened closures of Snibston Discovery Park and Melbourne Fire Station. Indications, sadly, of the problems that arise when austerity becomes order of the day.

The usual programme of talks and events has continued. She expressed gratitude to Neil for taking over the task of booking Speakers. It was a time consuming and sometimes nail-biting process. The cost of Speakers and hire of rooms continued to rise but there would be no increase in the cost of admission.

Claire continued to manage the Midsummer Evening and also this year a welcome Midwinter Evening at Malcolm's house. In partnership with Barbara on the catering a healthy surplus was raised for our funds.

Attendance at the Christmas Coffee Morning was very disappointing this year. The event would be given a rest for a while. Instead it had been decided to make the November meeting more of a pre-Christmas social event. This year would be a particularly good year to start as it was intended to make it a celebration of the Civic Society's 40th anniversary of its establishment in 1974.

The venue for meetings continued to be in the Assembly Rooms. While certainly not

perfect, there was plenty of space and the installment of the hearing loop was a great help. Improvements had already been made to the building and its management. Hopefully their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding would be successful so that more substantial changes could be made. The Society's Archive had been transferred to a room in the building. The task had been done by Ian who continued to manage it so efficiently.

Claire created her usual interesting and attractive Display for the Festival in September and the Carnival always has a small display about our Civic Award.

Twice-yearly litter picks continued. The Spring one would be on April 14th. She thanked all the regular helpers including John and Jenny and Graham. The District Council does an annual clean up of the arterial roads into Melbourne but sadly they soon end up in the same litter covered state again.

Barry continues to expand our website and keeps information up to date. He is by far the most computer literate amongst us. Thelma and Brian continue their much appreciated poster duties. She echoed Brian's thanks to Hilary for her dedication in editing the Newsletter.

A final thank you was offered to the loyal support from members.

Melbourne Civic Society could look back on a successful 40 years and she did not doubt it could look forward to another successful 40 years.

7. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the yearly accounts to year ending February 28th 2014 were available for all to examine. They had been scrutinised and signed by the newly appointed Independent Examiner, Jane Radcliffe, to whom thanks were expressed.

David reported another successful year. Comparisons with the previous year were difficult as activities and expenditure could vary widely but normal revenue items remained similar. New publications and new sales outlets had boosted income. Gift aid refunds for this year could not be included, as the new online management had proved difficult and slow. The Special Reserve Fund for the beautification of Melbourne was slowly being reduced and with present low interest rates would not increase. In-house catering at social events gave a welcome boost to funds. He was happy that the Society could meet its future financial commitments. The Committee would properly investigate the funding of any future projects before any commitment was entered into.

Acceptance of accounts was proposed by M. Taylor and seconded by G. Truscott.

8. 2014 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 7 nominations for the Award this year.

Millbrook: A Davidson's development at Station Road. A large development, using a variety of materials and designs, based on existing buildings in Melbourne.

St. Michael's House, Church Square: The former semi-derelect coach house had been sympathetically converted into a multi-use building.

Roebuck House, 22 Potter Street: The run-down frontage of the former public house had been cleaned up and has improved the street scene.

Pool Farm Cottage, Woodhouses: Formerly part of the stonemason's yard, it had been repaired and extended using period details.

37 Blanch Croft: A simple, but careful restoration of a small terraced house.

Amalfi White, 50 Derby Road: A vast improvement of the 1970's front elevation of the former Liberal Club.

48-52 Commerce Street: Three dwellings that have been built on the site of a single large house, demolished some time ago.

Judging took place on March 19th.

The panel consisted of:-

Liz Walker	Visiting Architect
Jane Carroll	Chair Melbourne Parish Council
Neil Wright	Civic Award Organizer
Claire Sturges	Civic Society Committee Member
Ian Turner	Chair Civic Society planning sub-committee
Martin Keay	Civic Society Members Representative

All the nominees were praised by the judges and were pleased to see the use of local craftsmen. It was also difficult to compare such diverse projects.

After a long deliberation the following was unanimously agreed.

WINNER OF CIVIC AWARD 2014: Millbrook, Station Road

"The developer has resisted the use of "standard" designs. A lot of time and thought has gone into producing designs and detailing that reflect Melbourne. This gives a sense of continuity with the rest of the village."

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Amalfi White

"The return of the frontage to something like its original appearance has greatly enhanced the street scene on that area of Derby Road."

HIGHLY COMMENDED: St. Michaels House

"The use of original materials in the renovation and alteration of the former coach house along with the addition of a sympathetic extension has provided a versatile building."

9. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following were nominated, proposed, seconded and approved for election to the Committee as Officers:-

Brian Budd: Chairman, Barry Thomas: Vice Chairman, Pam Adams: Secretary, Dave Calvert Treasurer

The following were nominated, proposed, seconded and approved for election as committee members:-

Malcolm Busfield, Linda Bazley, Dr Paul Grimley, Martin Keay, John Sheppard, Barbara Simpson, Claire Sturges, Ian Turner and Neil Wright.

The Chairman welcomed Martin Keay to the Committee as a new member.

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

A query was raised on the present status of the Holy Well and also the nature of the plans for November meeting.

Chairman closed the AGM at 7.57 p.m.

The Annual General meeting was followed by a talk by Keith Elliott of the Measham Museum Society and Chairman of Measham Local History Group. He gave a very informative talk on the many old buildings that no longer exist in Measham. Many were demolished in the 60s and 70s in the rush to modernize. Some were left to decay and some were redeveloped. It proved an object lesson for all communities to cherish and preserve their old buildings.

A full report will appear in the July Newsletter.