

MINUTES of the 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MELBOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY, at the Assembly Rooms, Melbourne, on Monday 30th March 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: Officers: Mr. B. Budd: Chairman, 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, Mr. M Keay, Mr. M. Busfield.

Also present: 29 Members and 2 non-members

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 41st Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Civic Society.

2. Apologies.

J and T. Sheppard, D and S Clark, B Thomas, M. Calow.

3. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Acceptance was proposed by I. Turner, seconded by D. Desborough and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

The Society continued to be in a healthy position regarding funds and membership although new members were always welcomed.

The programme of talks had been varied, ranging from "Kill or Cure Plants" through the Orchestra, Art, An Entrepreneur and on to Map Making. Quite a range of subjects! Thanks went to Neil Wright for arranging them. In November the format was changed, as it was the Society's 40th Anniversary. On that evening, members of the original Committee as well as early members were invited to come along. Following a short talk on how and why the Civic Society started, there was a finger buffet and refreshments. From the feedback it all went very well. There would be something similar either every year or every other year in future.

The Holy Well was still maintained and at the moment was looking very good and colourful with daffodils and snowdrops out in bloom.

Regarding daffodils approximately 900 bulbs were planted in three areas; Blackwell Lane and Station Road around the "Welcome to Melbourne" signs and on Cockshut Lane around the footpath sign opposite Spinney Hill entrance. All of these bulbs were early flowering bulbs and were now out in profusion. They were a welcome sight to anybody entering Melbourne by road.

The Society's Planning Sub-Committee, chaired by Ian Turner, had been very busy this year with an influx of Planning Applications for many homes on Station Road and Jawbone Lane. These applications had been vigorously opposed and, at present, were waiting to come before the SDDC Planning Committee.

The Walk Books had again been selling very well and not just in the Melbourne Shops. Barry had been "further afield" and had been successful in getting them sold in various shops outside Melbourne. The "Melbourne Trail" guide around Melbourne had also sold very well. Thanks went to Barry Thomas for his hard work. The Melbourne Footpath

Group had done well this year with its “Walkers are Welcome Town” project. Many of the shops and businesses had signed up to receive walkers and ramblers who come into the village. They had also been busy clearing paths, installing gates and stiles and generally making sure that the footpaths around Melbourne were safe for walkers and ramblers.

Dr Paul Grimley, the Society’s representative on The Airport Independent Consultative Committee, reported that DHL had applied to North West Leicestershire Council to seek an extension to their warehousing at the airport but they say there will be no increase in flights. There may, eventually, be larger aircraft as the internet parcels business was growing and parcels were getting larger in size but not necessarily more in quantity. The passenger business was expected to grow slightly over the next few years but, as yet, the figures were not known.

In conclusion, he thanked the Committee for all their help over the last year. He praised Pam Adams, the Secretary and David Calvert the treasurer. He thanked Neil Wright for arranging all the speakers. Particular thanks went to Ian Turner who had a very hard job this year thinking of all the objections to put forward for the many planning applications. He thanked Barry Thomas for all the work he had done for the Footpaths Group and selling the walk books. Dr Paul Grimley, Malcolm Busfield, John Sheppard and Martin Keay all deserved praise for their help and special thanks went to Claire Sturges and Barbara Simpson for their catering prowess for the Midsummer evening and the 40th anniversary “do” this year.

He paid tribute to his wife Pam, who had to put up with him going out delivering things and going to meetings and so on and was not always there when he was needed.

6. Secretary’s Report

The Secretary reported that membership was now under the 200 mark but subscription rates would remain the same. She was sorry that Linda had left this year but Brian had very nobly stepped into the breach to act as membership secretary. She paid tribute to Brian for fulfilling his role as Chairman so diligently.

Membership of Civic Voice continued as it ensures the Civic Society movement has a strong voice in the media and government. One of its many initiatives is the idea of each area creating a list of Local Assets. This would be followed up in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council and the help of Philip Heath.

As well as continuing to support the usual local groups, links had been forged with Melbourne Junior School and Tutbury Civic Society this year. Barry had led a walk round Melbourne for Year 5 pupils and revised their own Melbourne Guide. Neil had arranged a guided tour round Melbourne for Tutbury Civic Society in May. These all help to raise the Society’s profile in the community as does the Civic Award and Ian’s well-researched responses to planning developments and the Local Plan as well as his involvement in setting up Melbourne’s Neighbourhood Plan. A showcase at the September Arts Festival was assured when this year Claire produced an impressive photographic display on Features in the Landscape on the Boundary of Melbourne.

Spring and Autumn Litter Picks continued and dismay was expressed at the amount of litter regularly collected.

The Secretary expressed the view that her job was a mixture of administrator, go-between and dogsbody. Being the main point of contact she acknowledged and distributed correspondence as well as set the Agenda for committee meetings, wrote Minutes and reports. Now mainly computer driven, she stored files on most information but continued to play safe by printing paper copies of quite a lot of items. In the light of recent publicity on electronic data storage becoming unreadable in years to come this could be wise.

Barry did a great job in managing the website. He had sorted security and access issues this year. His skill at the computer pays off when digging beneath the surface for

information behind planning applications or badly sited broadband boxes!
She expressed special thanks to Hilary for producing the Newsletter. It was no secret that she was feeling ready to hand over the role to someone else - so if anyone was willing to volunteer to take on the job they would be welcomed with open arms.
On the subject of news she made special mention of the co-operation from Village Voice which so willingly featured the Civic Society's activities. It was a real local treasure.
In conclusion she expressed grateful thanks for the loyal support of members over the last year. She assured that the interests of Melbourne Civic Society would continue to be represented over the next year however challenging that proved to be.

7. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the yearly accounts to year ending February 28th 2015 were distributed. David reported a quiet spending year for the Society. There had been no substantial projects as serious planning matters had been the main preoccupation for the Committee. The Gift Aid figures also included those for 2014, as there had been administrative delays. Income from publications showed an increase which was welcome. The Special Reserve Fund bequeathed for the beautification of Melbourne with flowers and trees was slowly being reduced and with present low interest rates would not be increasing. The Midsummer Evening made a good surplus on catering but there was outlay for the 40th Anniversary celebrations.
He was happy that the Society was in a sound financial position and could meet its future financial commitments. The Committee would properly investigate the funding of any future projects before any commitment was made.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by C. Tandy and seconded by Dr. P. Grimley.

8. 2015 Civic Society Award

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.

Judging took place on March 17th.

The panel consisted of:-

David Clark	Architect Advisor
Wendy Earp	Chair Melbourne Parish Council
Neil Wright	Civic Award Organizer
Brian Budd	Chair of Melbourne Civic Society
Ian Turner	Chair Civic Society planning sub-committee
Ann Nicholls	Civic Society Member's Representative

There were five nominations for the Award this year.

**The Close, Church Square, 66-70 Ashby Road, Rear of 60 High Street,
1-3 Thomas Cook Close and The Chip and Pin.**

All the projects were praised by the judges for their workmanship and enhancement of Melbourne but it was decided that no main award would be made this year. However Highly Commended certificates would be presented to The Close in Church Square and to the three houses at 66-70 Ashby Road.

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, David Clark, Dr Paul Grimley, Martin Keay, John Sheppard, Barbara Simpson, Claire Sturges, Ian Turner and Neil Wright.

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

Clarification on the proposed plans for an extension at DHL was requested. Dr. Grimley gave a brief outline of the planned doubling of sorting capacity. The plans had not yet been put forward for consideration by North West Leicestershire District Council.

In answer to another query about the proposed rail freight terminal he confirmed that he had no further information apart from what was in the public domain.

The Chairman closed the AGM at 8.05 p.m.

The Annual General meeting was followed by a talk by Stephen Flinders on “Stanton – Gone but not Forgotten”.

A full report would appear in the July Newsletter.