



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025

(Draft, for formal approval at the 2026 AGM)

Held at The Mount Without, St Michael's Hill at 19.30 on Tuesday 24 June 2025

Attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Morris, Peter Weeks, Heather Frenkel, John Frenkel, Ted Fowler.

1. Opening of meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Henry Michallat, Patron of the Society. He observed that one of the themes of his mayoralty was to promote and celebrate the city's arts culture and history, which coincides very closely with the Society's aims. He also emphasised that the focus needed to be on the future as well as the past, and mentioned the housing crisis. The council was under pressure to provide many more new homes, sometimes prompting opposition, but he recognised a role for the Civic Society in being a candid friend and constructive critic, recognising the pressures faced by the council but urging high standards of design and placemaking.

Concluding, he remarked on the venue, The Mount Without, an excellent example of the regeneration of an old derelict building; and he paid tribute to Norman Routledge, its owner and developer, whose vision, energy and determination had driven the project forward. The city owed him a debt of gratitude for the work he had achieved here and elsewhere in the city.

After formally opening the meeting, he handed over to Sandra Fryer (Chair of the Society) who chaired the rest of the meeting.

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

These were approved without change.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report on Civic Society activity 2024

The Management Team had this year produced a written report, which had been posted on the Society's website, and paper copies were available at the meeting. The Chair introduced it briefly, explaining that for future AGMs, a written report would always be produced, hopefully with a little more notice.

Among key issues for the year were refreshing our Business Plan; the local elections, after which we put much effort into forging relations with the new administration and seeking to bring our influence to bear; and coordinating a response to the Bristol Local Plan Inquiry, in which the City Council's plans were reviewed by three government inspectors.

She then ran briefly through the various groups and teams who carry out the society's work, and thanked all those who contributed. One innovation was a Litter-Picking scheme, in association with Sustainable Westbury on Trym, which aimed to build a network of teams across Bristol initially in Southmead and then Henbury.

There were no questions and the report was noted with approval by the meeting.

5. Financial report

This was on page 7 of the Annual Report. The Treasurer, John Jones, said that as in previous years he was able to report that the society was in excellent financial health.

No questions were raised and the accounts were noted with approval by the meeting.

6. Election of Chair for 2025/26

In accordance with the constitution, the chair Sandra Fryer stood down and presented herself for re-election. There were no other nominations.

She was nominated by Peter Weeks, seconded by Geoff Haslam

She was elected overwhelmingly on a show of hands, with no objections

7/8. Election of other officers for 2025/26 and Management Team members

In accordance with the constitution, the Treasurer and Secretary stood down, and both presented themselves for re-election. There were no other nominations.

The following were nominated by Nic Billane and seconded by Laura Demery

Treasurer: John Jones

Secretary: Mike Bates

Alex Dunn and Stephen Wickham, having served for three years since last being elected, stood down, and both presented themselves for re-election. There were no other nominations.

They were nominated by Dave Thomas and seconded by Willie Harbinson

All five were elected overwhelmingly on a show of hands, with no objections

9. Appointment of Honorary Auditor for 2025/26

Brenda McLennan had offered to continue in this role and her appointment was approved by the meeting. The meeting expressed its appreciation of her continuing contribution.

10. Resolutions relating to the proposed conversion of the Society to a CIO

The Secretary, Mike Bates, introduced the two resolutions. The MT were recommending that the Society move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, to make it a legal entity in its own right and give trustees and members the protection of limited liability. This involved three stages, the second and third of which required the authority of the AGM:

- creation and registration of a new CIO with the same charitable objectives (this was in hand but the Charity Commission had not yet registered it);
- transfer of the assets and membership of the old society to the new (this was the purpose of Resolution 1) once the CIO was registered;
- the winding up of the old society, once the assets and members had been transferred (the purpose of Resolution 2)

Both resolutions were voted on, and both were passed unanimously.

[The text of the two resolutions is annexed]

11. Thanks and questions

Sandra Fryer expressed her thanks to the Lord Mayor for attending, and to the Management Team for their support and work. From the floor, Dave Thomas (who coordinates the distribution of Better Bristol) expressed his thanks to his team of volunteers, and to Laura Demery, Membership Secretary, for her help in drawing up the delivery rounds.

A question was raised from the floor about the reference to the Bristol Kyrle Society (1905) in the Society's current full name. Sandra Fryer confirmed that this would not carry forward into the name of the new CIO.

There being no further questions or further business, Sandra Fryer thanked members for attending and closed the AGM.

Resolution 1

Conditional upon completion of the formation of the new charitable incorporated organisation and the required consent of the Charity Commission to such transfer, the AGM is invited to approve the transfer of the membership and all assets of registered charity number 244414, the "Bristol Civic Society incorporating the Bristol Kyrle Society (1905)" to the charitable incorporated organisation entitled "Bristol Civic Society", a body which is in the process of being registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales for the express purpose of being the successor body to registered charity number 244414, and which has identical charitable objectives to the current charity.

Resolution 2

Conditional upon the due passing of Resolution 1 above and satisfaction of the conditions thereto, the AGM is invited to approve the winding up of the "Bristol Civic Society incorporating the Bristol Kyrle Society (established 1905)", noting that in accordance with Section 12 of its constitution, the Society's available funds are being transferred to the charitable incorporated organisation "Bristol Civic Society" referred to in Resolution 1 above.