

The National Trust – Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Centre

Minutes of the Fifty-second Annual General Meeting

Held at Sacred Heart's Hall, Moorend Road, Cheltenham at 2:30 pm on Saturday 25th March 2017.

Present	Michael Forster-Smith	President, in the Chair
	Bill Cronin	Centre Chairman
	Peter Ellis	Centre Secretary
	Andrew Ellis	Treasurer

And 69 centre members.

1. **Apologies** were received from, Mrs Jan Turner ,Mrs Sally Hall, Miss Elizabeth Macnamara, Mrs Heather Moore-Scott, Mrs Sylvia Flambard and Mrs Clare Acommani

2. The **President** welcomed all present and thanked the Centre for its support both now and since its founding assisting the National Trust in its work. The Trust was broadening it's boundaries. Sharing it's built properties to allow exhibitions and different themes. It was now refreshing it's displays to reflect changing themes. The Trust has taken a 5 year lease to manage the Elgar Birthplace Museum and will re-open in September 2017.

3. The **Minutes of the 51st AGM** had been accepted by the Committee and were approved by those present. Proposed by Duncan Reid, seconded by David Ford and accepted by those present by a show of hands.

4. The **Centre Chairman** thanked all the officers, committee members and helpers who have made his job so much easier over the last year. Without them the centre would not function and a lot of volunteers worked hard behind the scenes with very little reward or recognition other than knowing they are doing a good job well.

He continued "We are pleased that the president will recognise the support of four of our members who have served the centre for a number of years and have retired from their roles, later in the proceedings.

Equally, we are pleased to welcome two new volunteers Paula Ware and Simon Sheldon who have taken on the roles of Membership Secretary and Treasurer, from this AGM. We are grateful for their support and enthusiasm and look forward to a long working relationship.

Incidentally, Frank Aspland who produces our newsletter, has indicated that he wishes to retire after the next few editions. He is willing to support anyone interested in this role and if you or someone you know may be interested please, contact Peter Walker".

Once again, as last year, I urged those present to encourage their friends and acquaintances from all over Gloucestershire and beyond, to join us. Importantly we need the next generation to join us!! Last year I expressed my concern that many NT members do not know about us, even the volunteers at properties often do not know about the voluntary associations and centres.

Our able vice chairman Julph Miers talked to Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General, of the National Trust before their AGM last year about our concerns and as a result we have had two meetings with her staff (one only a few days ago) We are still digesting their response, so please look out for reports in future editions of the newsletter and on the website.

In addition we have been to a South West Regional Office and talked to Maria Vicary and to Jonny Loose who is the manager for a number of properties and sites in Gloucestershire. I have to be candid, they gave us more practical advice and support than we received at national level. Their advice might change the way we distribute our funds and we hope the meetings with them will

continue as productively. Incidentally, Bob Hann, from North Cotswold Association came to all the meetings and a number of volunteers group meetings at NT properties to explain our role.

Officers have been to two volunteer meetings so far and we are going to Chedworth later on to their volunteers meeting. We have a permanent invitation from Jonny Loose to attend such meetings in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lauren Palmer Chedworth's operations manager for being here today with the model that we part funded out of funds in previous years. She is willing to answer any points you might like to raise after the formal meeting has been completed.

With two new volunteers in place it will give us an opportunity to review the way we manage the centre and have a hard look at our costs and ways of working particularly with the newsletter and management of the newsletter circulation. This will all be carefully considered and few changes are anticipated before the next A.G.M."

5. **Treasurer** Andrew Ellis, presented the financial report.

Subscription income shows a slight decrease £2347 v £2359.(£12 decrease).

Donations were slightly down £217 v £532 (£315 decrease). Last year included a sum of £300 compensation from Lloyds bank for errors in handling changes of cheque signatories.

Lectures were down by £374 due to an expensive repair on the projector.

Social Events included showed a reduction this year by £147.

David and Adris organised the Holiday and Outings and showed a healthy increase over the previous year. And the committee are indebted for their efforts.

Andrew recorded his thanks to all members involved in the fund raising during 2016

The figure of £4,800 for projects is made up of the list as shown in the finance committee report plus £150 contributed by the walking group.

6. The adoption of the financial statement was proposed by Julph Miers and seconded by Pete Lewis and accepted by those present with a show of hands.

7. Peter Walker presented the proposed disbursement of funds as set out below. This was proposed by Graham Ettles and seconded by Duncan Reid and accepted by those present with a show of hands.

Proposed Distribution 2017

<u>Property</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u> £'s	<u>Proposed Donation</u> £'s
Croome Park	Saloon Ceiling viewing window		500
Chedworth Villa	New Model of the Villa	1,600.	1000
Hidcote Manor	Terracotta Pots for the Italian House	700	700
Lodge Park	Conservation Blinds	600	600
Newark Park	Carpet for Dressing Up Room	1,500.	1000
Snowhill Manor	Model Village Reconstruction	1,000.	1000
		Total	<u><u>4800</u></u>

8. The appointment of Andrew Meakin as **Independent Examiner** was proposed by Geoffrey Cox, seconded by David Ford and accepted by those present with a show of hands

9. The resolution to keep the **subscriptions** at the previous levels was proposed by David Ford and seconded by Tony Ireland and accepted by all present with a show of hands.

10. The Resolution to waive the "Five Year Rule". This was proposed by Peter Walker and seconded by Roger Holden and accepted by all present with a show of hands.

11. The election of the nominees en bloc was proposed by Pete Lewis, seconded by Tony Ireland and accepted by all present by a show of hands.

The officers and committee for 2016 are as follows:-

1	Chairman	Bill Cronin
2	Vice Chairman	Julph Miers
3	Secretary	Peter Ellis
4	Treasurer	Simon Sheldon

Committee:

1. Tony Ireland
2. Peter Walker
3. Ann Nye
4. David Cooke
5. Adris Cooke
6. David Ford
7. Roger Holden

12 Any other business

There being no further business the formal meeting closed at 3:10 pm.

The President made Retirement presentations to Joan Wendon, Doreen Cook and Andrew Ellis.

It was followed by a talk by Richard Wheeler "National Specialist in Garden History for the National Trust" entitled "The Georgian Visitor"

At 4:00 pm a tea was provided by the ANTS.