

Draft minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of PCN Britain held on Saturday 1st April 2023, via Zoom.

Background to the 2023 Annual General Meeting

It had been intended to hold an in-person AGM in 2023, however industrial action on the railways was called for the day of the event and as most people were intending to travel by public transport it was decided that the best alternative was a Zoom meeting.

Members present: Adrian Alker, Christine Alker, Alison Baker, Keith Baker, Liz Bassant, Martin Bassant, Jennifer Batchelor, Peter Brophy, Michael Burn, John Churcher, David Coaker, Elaine Cobb, Jenny Dennis, Mike Dennis, Gerald Drewett, Mike Evans, Pat Fuller, Valerie Graham, Sandra Griffiths, John Hack, Gillian Harrison, John Haydon, Colin Higginbotham, Susan Hinds, Tom Hinds, Sue Hobley, David Ireson, Jenny Jacobs, Nigel Jones, Fran Lovett, Ian Lovett, Mary McVay, Dierdre Munro, Nicola Phelan, Bridget Pink, Fred Pink, Barbara Robinson, Tony Rutherford, Tony Sanchez, Kevin Skippon, David Storey, Joy Stribblehill, Peter Stribblehill, Liz Temple, Richard Tetlow, Mark Thompson, Pat Thorpe, Liz Vizard, Christine Whitworth, Jackie Wiegman, Gwen Wills, Carole Wynn, Watcyn Wynn, Tim Yeager

1. Appointment of Chair for AGM
Adrian Alker, had agreed to chair the meeting, welcomed those present and received the apologies for absence. The meeting was quorate.
2. Appointment of Tellers
As the meeting was held on Zoom and voting was by online poll there were no tellers appointed, Sarah Guilfoyle (PCN Administrator) was tasked to report the results of the polling.
3. Apologies for absence: Jennifer Besbrode, Carol Brennand, Janet Carpenter, Paul Dawson, Lorraine Evans, Jane Francis, Ana Gobledale, Michael Hell, Mo Lawson-Wills, Mary Kenchington, Cliff Marshall, Pauline Marshall, Iain McDonald, Ros Murphy, Paul Onslow, Ruth Tetlow, Val Trinder, Andy Vivian
4. Adoption of minutes
The Draft minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14th May 2022 were circulated in advance of the meeting and no amendments were proposed. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Martin Bassant and seconded by Jenny Jacobs; those present voted to accept the minutes as a true record.
5. Matters arising from the minutes
There were no matters arising.
6. Adoption of Chair's report, 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022
The report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Simon Cross highlighted items from his report, firstly the Made of Stories film series which was completed in 2022, he thanked the two lead Trustees, Ian Geere and Adrian Alker for their work on the project and also thanked members for donating to the project and making it possible. Thanks were also given to Martin Bassant for his hard work in ensuring that the Thinking Science, Thinking Faith series of talks was able to take place after multiple postponements. Simon talked about the Power of Partnership and the importance of working closely with allied organisations to amplify the

reach and voice of PCN Britain. Thanks were given to the Trustees and also to Sarah Guilfoyle, the PCN Administrator.

Questions from the members were invited.

Nicola Phelan asked about the podcast project. It was explained that this is seen as a successor to the film series and can build on the work that was started but be able to be completed more swiftly and with less financial outlay.

Fran Lovett asked about links with the Student Christian Movement (SCM). Simon affirmed the need for good links with SCM, and observed that progressive can have a different meaning for younger people with the ideas being based more strongly in social justice issues. PCN Britain may have to look away from its foundation with writers such as Spong and Borg and focus more on current issues to broaden its reach.

Nigel Jones asked about Greenbelt. PCN Britain and SCM have been in discussions with Greenbelt to identify the next generation of young and radical thinkers, special attention needs to be paid to those who are outside the publishing mainstream e.g. podcasters.

Richard Tetlow asked about Interfaith Partnership. Richard spoke about his positive experiences of Interfaith work and commended it to PCN. Simon thanked Richard for his work on Interfaith Partnerships and said that he would like to see this developed within PCN. Pat Fuller commended Karen Armstrong's book *Sacred Nature* to the members present.

Tony Rutherford asked about using the media, such as BBC and Church Times, to spread the message of PCN Britain. Simon acknowledged the importance of this and the need for PCN to develop a communications strategy. The accessibility of local radio was highlighted.

Nigel Jones asked about how we attract people who are not in church communities. Simon responded that this was being considered currently.

The acceptance of the Chair's report was proposed by Nicola Phelan and seconded by Mike Evans. The meeting voted to accept the report.

7. Adoption of Treasurer's report

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Treasurer, Peter Stribblehill, commented to accompany a powerpoint presentation.

The accounts showed a deficit of £6,846. This was due to expenditure on the final Made of Stories film, Greenbelt, and Management Committee expenses returning to their pre-Covid level. This was expected and, given the reserves that the charity holds, not a cause for concern.

Thanks were given to Sarah Guilfoyle for maintaining the accounts and also to Rachel Witham as Independent Examiner.

Peter invited questions from the attendees.

Tony Rutherford asked what CCLA stands for. Adrian Alker confirmed that it stands for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities.

The accounts have been independently examined and signed off, without qualification, by an independent examiner. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Susan Hinds and seconded by Jackie Wiegman. The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

8. Appointment of new Trustees

Those seeking appointment were:

Sandra Griffiths – proposer Elizabeth Bassant, seconder Jenny Jacobs

Sue Hobley - proposer Michael Burn, seconder Robert Young

Paul Onslow - proposer Adrian Alker, seconder Jenny Jacobs

Kevin Skippon - proposer Simon Cross, seconder Jackie Wiegman

The vote was a single, confirmatory vote as the number of spaces available exceeded the number of nominees. The meeting voted to accept the nominations.

Thanks were given to Adrian Alker for Chairing the Annual General Meeting and also for his long service as a Trustee.

This concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting.