

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held in University House, the University of Leeds and via Zoom video conferencing software,**

**at 6.30 p.m. on 8 December 2022**

Present: The President (Professor Blair, in the chair) and ca. 20 members, with 3 more attending via Zoom

**1. Introduction and welcome.** The President welcomed members to the meeting, the first that was able to be held in person since 2019, now that the Covid-19 pandemic was in decline.

**2. Apologies.** The apologies received from Ms Helen Gott, Dr K. Hall and Professor Wendy Childs were accepted.

**3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9 December 2021.** The minutes were accepted unanimously as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Matters arising.**

Any matters arising would be covered under the other agenda headings.

**5. Resolutions.**

No resolutions to be put to the meeting had been notified to the Secretary.

**6. Adoption of the Annual Report of Council, 2021/22.** The Annual Report had been circulated to all members; President reported that most of the Society talks given during the year had been hybrid in nature – however, two had been entirely in person, at the Leeds Library and in the Leeds City Museum; the annual Science Fair had also continued to be popular. He thanked members of Council and especially the chairs of the various committees for their help in organising the Society’s meetings. He has pleased to report that the Society’s total membership had increased by some 20% during the year, to a total of 188 and urged members to encourage their friends, neighbours etc to join; the flexibility offered by the website was proving very useful as the Society’s main recruitment agent and its designer, Nina Best (now an LPLS member too), was introduced to the meeting. The annual report of Council was adopted unanimously by the meeting.

**7. Adoption of the Annual Accounts, 2021/22.** The Annual Accounts had been circulated to all members; the Treasurer, Mr Warren Smith, said that he felt that the Society’s finances were overall in good shape and highlighted the fact that the dividend income had increased slightly, thanks to the efforts of Investec, the Society’s investment managers. There had been only 5 grant applications during the year, which meant that only half the funds allocated to grants had been able to be awarded. He thanked Pat Bourke, the Assistant Treasurer and Katharine Widdowson, the accountant, for all their work in keeping the financial records accurately and for producing the accounts. The annual accounts of the Society were adopted unanimously by the meeting.

**8.** **Resignation of Trustees/Appointment of new Trustees.**

Under the terms of the Society’s constitution, one third of the trustees retire each year by rotation. Those due to retire this December, having been elected in December 2019 were: Dr C.J. Hatton, Dr R. Jakeways and Hon Ald Elizabeth Nash; Dr Hatton and Dr Jakeways did not wish to stand for re-election. The Council of the Society had agreed that it wished to nominate Hon Ald

E. Nash for re-election to Council; in addition, they nominated: Dr Kersten Hall, Professor Paul Millner, Ms Jane Mitchell, Dr Martin Staniforth and Professor Wendy Webster. Professor Blair also nominated Dr Christine Holdstock.

All nominations for election to Council were approved unanimously by the meeting.

On behalf of the whole Council the President expressed his thanks to the two retiring members – Dr Hatton had served for some 25 years and had filled the roles of President (twice) and Treasurer; Dr Jakeways was much appreciated for his many years of quiet work in organising the annual Science Fair which had become one of the Society’s most successful events.

The meeting concluded its business at 18.52.

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In comments afterwards, Professor North recalled how suitable the School of Music had been as a venue for events, as it had allowed members to gather and mingle over tea and coffee before the talk; the President shared that view but also pointed out that it had been quite expensive to hire; he went on to say that the Events Secretary was drawing up a spreadsheet of possible meeting venues with their various pros and cons; and she was also planning to conduct a survey of members’ views on all Society matters in the coming year.