

AIRSHIP HERITAGE TRUST

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CARDINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE 2019 AT 2:00 PM

The Chairman welcomed members and their guests to Cardington Village Hall for the 2019 Annual General Meeting. He then introduced the other members of Council, together with Peter Davison (the Trust's Curatorial Adviser) and the Trust's Patron, Baroness Smith of Basildon. The Chairman also drew members' attention to the display of artefacts organised by Alastair Lawson at the rear of the Hall.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Dr Giles Camplin (Dirigible Editor) who was currently unwell. Derek Millis had also been taken to hospital shortly before the meeting. The Chairman said he was sure that all those present wished them both well. Apologies had also been received from Alexander Kirk Wilson, Ray Bailey, Arnold Nayler and Alastair Reid.

The passing of Dr Edwin Mowforth (a Vice-President of the Trust) and Mary Stopes-Roe (daughter of Sir Barnes Wallis) was noted with regret.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

It was proposed by Alastair Lawson that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Nigel Smith and carried unanimously.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by saying that the Trust had had another steady year with consistent membership numbers both in the UK and overseas. The money generated from the sale of the Trust's land at Cardington had meant that the Trust was now in a better financial position than had been the case for many years. This had enabled the Trust to consider supporting various good causes - both locally and nationally - that dealt with lighter-than-air history in this country and with the commemoration of events - particularly with regard to the R101.

The Trust continued to provide talks and lectures to many organisations. These took place all over the country from London to Newport Pagnell and from Leatherhead to Maidenhead. The Chairman thanked Alastair Lawson and Giles Camplin in particular for giving up their free time to undertake these talks, which not only fulfilled part of the Trust's remit as a charity but also spread the word about LTA history and helped to swell the Trust's coffers through donations and sales.

The Chairman also thanked Giles Camplin once again for the splendid job he did as Editor of *Dirigible*. The journal was probably the Trust's most visible asset and he knew that it was greatly valued by the membership. This year would see the 100th anniversary of the R34's historic double crossing of the Atlantic and this would be commemorated in the next issue of *Dirigible*. The Trust had also contributed financially to displays and events being held to mark this historic achievement. Plans were being developed to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the crash of the R101 the following year and more details would be issued in due course.

The Trust continued to care for and maintain the R101 Memorial in the cemetery at Cardington. The Chairman thanked Paul Ross for taking on this challenge on behalf of the Trust. Possible repairs to the Memorial were being actively investigated with the advice and assistance of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, although the work would be funded by the Trust.

The Chairman concluded by saying that after the formal part of the meeting, there would be a talk by Gary Ball of History Matters on progress with 'Project Zero'.

4. 2018 Report and Accounts

Chris Angell presented the accounts for the year to 31st December 2018, which were 'unaudited' but had been independently examined and signed-off by Collett Hulance, the Trust's accountants, in accordance with current Charity Commission regulations. He said he felt that the Consolidated

Income and Expenditure Account issued with the Agenda was the most useful document to show the Trust's financial position and he went on to explain the changes since the previous year. He pointed out the expenditure incurred in the ongoing indexing work for Dirigible.

Chris Angell added that there would be a special meeting of Council to consider the future use of the Trust's funds, following the Cardington land sale. He said that it was important to be prudent with these funds.

It was proposed by Martin Penn and seconded by Alastair Lawson that the Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2018 be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

5. Election of Council Members

The Chairman said that Derek Millis, Paul Ross and Nigel Smith were due to retire this year and were standing for re-election. It was proposed by Alastair Lawson and seconded by Martin Penn that all three be re-elected. This was carried unanimously.

The Chairman explained that Roger Allton had been co-opted as a new Trustee at that morning's Council Meeting and was now standing for election. This was proposed by Paul Ross, seconded by Alastair Lawson and carried unanimously.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Chris Angell explained the duties that Collett Hulance carried out and said that they continued to provide an excellent service. That Collett Hulance be appointed as the Independent Examiner for the coming year was proposed by Chris Angell, seconded by Alastair Lawson and carried unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

The Chairman noted that no other business had been advised in writing by the due date but he invited questions from the floor.

Peter Davison raised the matter of the R101 Memorial at Allonne, which he said appeared to be in poor condition. He proposed that the Mayor of Allonne be contacted with the suggestion that the memorial be cleaned. He added that he had a contact in France who could draft a suitable letter. The Chairman thanked him for this suggestion, which would be considered by Council.

David Boughton asked about the condition of the obelisk in the field where the R101 had grounded but nothing was known. He went on to commend the previous year's talk on the R101 disaster and said the evidence uncovered by Bryan Lawton should have been given at the Official Inquiry in 1930.

8. Closure of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2:19 pm and thanked everyone for their attendance. He added that the 2020 Annual General Meeting would be held at Cardington on Saturday, 6th June.