

BRISTOL-HANNOVER COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting
7.00 p.m. Thursday 22nd October 2020
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Present: Lord Mayor Councillor Jos Clark, Ann Kennard (chair), Frank Titmarsh (vice-chair), Lynne Evans (secretary), Paul Hinchcliffe (treasurer), Kai von Pahlen (Hon. Consul), Richard Harris, Mark Allinson, Allie Dunnington, Colin Evans, Liz Gill, Alix Hughes, Tim Illston, Esther Pickup-Keller, Tony Kennard, Gerard Owen, Carol Pickard, Derek Pickup, Jonathan Radnedge, Ethne and John Dando, Ursula King.

From Hannover: Robert Nicholls, Helga Wawra

1. Apologies: Hannover Mayor Thomas Hermann, Lynne and Oliver McAleavey, Lynne Cholmondely, David Perkins, Vivien Brown, Carla Murray

2. Opening remarks: The Lord Mayor opened the meeting, noting the strange circumstances of having to meet on Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. However she appreciated an important opportunity to keep connected and keep organisations live, relevant and moving forward with their agendas.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: Approved. Proposed Frank Titmarsh, seconded Colin Evans.

4. Reports

(i) Chair's Report: From Ann Kennard (available on the website).

- It had been a year of two halves: a busy first half-year, cut off then by the lockdown in March, due to Covid 19.
- There had been a series of talks, a visit from the Hannover gymnasts, an enjoyable Christmas Market lunch, and a Bauhaus in Bristol exhibition, featuring one of the five men who went to Hannover in 1947, Crofton Gane.
- After Christmas Ann was privileged to attend Paul Seath's 80th birthday party – Paul's father Edward was another of the pioneers of 1947 who went to Hannover. Sadly Paul died in September, and Ann attended on behalf of BHC.
- Throughout February we hosted an international Mayors for Peace exhibition in City Hall, we celebrated Karneval, and in March Ann and Lynne Evans were honoured to attend the Lord Mayor's annual civic service.
- Since March we have organized some online events, but more importantly there have been significant events in the German diplomatic context: Tim Illston stood down as Honorary Consul, his place being taken over by Kai von Pahlen; the new German Ambassador visited Bristol with the General Consul, in order to facilitate that change. We also had a visit from the Vice-President of the Bundestag, Thomas Oppermann, who showed great interest in the city partnership, but sadly died unexpectedly only weeks after his visit. Letters of condolence have been sent by Mayor Rees and the BHC Chair.
- Finally Ann thanked Alix Hughes for his work on our behalf in the City Council International Office, and the committee for their support at this difficult time.

(ii) Treasurer's Report: Paul Hinchcliffe presented the Foundation (events) account on-screen. It realised a surplus of £179 after outgoings of £1,244 against income of £1,423. Currently standing at £1,391. The Council (charity) account income was £4,676. Outgoings of £5,245 left a deficit of £569. A significant factor was the Mayors for Peace exhibition. Account currently standing at £4,474 supported by £26,500 of National Savings bond and a miscellaneous £19 in cash.

- (iii) Adoption of Reports: Chair's report approved on proposal from Mark Allinson, seconded Allie Dunnington. Treasurer's report approved on proposal from Lynne Evans, seconded Colin Evans.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

- (i) Chair: Ann Kennard elected for 20th year on a proposal from Paul Hinchcliffe, seconded by Lynne Evans.

At this point the Lord Mayor left the meeting in order to attend another engagement.

- (ii) Vice-Chair: Frank Titmarsh, proposed Ann Kennard, seconded Paul Hinchcliffe.
- (iii) Honorary Secretary: Lynne Evans, proposed Tim Illston, seconded David Perkins.
- (iv) Honorary Treasurer: Paul Hinchcliffe, proposed David Perkins, seconded Lynne Evans.
- (v) Minutes secretary: Jonathan Radnedge, proposed Ann Kennard, seconded Frank Titmarsh.
- (vi) Website administrator: Gerard Owen, proposed Frank Titmarsh, seconded Tim Illston.
- (vii) Committee Members: David Perkins, Tim Illston, Richard Harris, Carol Pickard and Kai von Pahlen all proposed en bloc by Frank Titmarsh, seconded Gerard Owen.

6. Subscriptions for 2020/2021: This year saw an increase to £15 for individuals and £25 for a family, in line with previous proposal from the AGM and subsequent committee decision.

7. Robert Nicholls intervened with best wishes from Hannover. He had spoken earlier this evening with Hannover Mayor Thomas Hermann who had another engagement but sent his apologies and warmest greetings and looked forward to seeing BHC members next year. He noted that the decision on Germany's representative to become the European City of Culture, for which Hannover was campaigning, would be October 28.

8. A fascinating illustrated talk was delivered by Joanna Mathers, the maritime curator of the SS Great Britain Trust, on the German involvement in the salvage of the vessel in 1970.

9. Any other business: Ann raised with Robert Nicholls the possibility of a virtual joint Bristol/Hannover committee meeting. He said he would look into this, and that members of the Hannover group were looking forward to their next year's visit to Bristol. After discussion re school dates in Lower Saxony, it was proposed to aim for 28/29th August weekend, always dependent on Covid circumstances. He asked about Bristol plans to visit Hannover, to which Ann responded with a reminder of the 75th anniversary beyond that in 2022.