



107th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 24th September 2022

Held in the Lecture Theatre and online, Trinity Hall at 6:00 pm

MINUTES

In the Chair: Mrs Gillian Karran-Cumberlege, President

1. Some 28 members were present in person, plus 1 online.

Apologies had been received from Mr Bob Ely, Mr Jonathan Cornwell and the Revd Cortland Fransella.

2. The minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting held on the 25th September 2021 had been circulated. Any matters arising were covered in the agenda. There being no amendments, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Dr Chris Angus, seconded by Emily Bosley, carried *nem con*, and they were duly signed by the President.

3. Elections

The re-election of Mrs Gillian Karran-Cumberlege (1982) as President was proposed by Sarah Webbe, seconded by Dr Chris Angus, and carried *nem con*.

On the Committee, the Revd Cortland Fransella (1967) was proposed for re-election by Lizzie Iron, seconded by Dr John Waddington, and this was carried *nem con*.

Emily Bosley (2012) and Lee Evans (2010), who had been co-opted onto the Committee during the year, were invited by the President to introduce themselves.

4. Revision to Rules of the Association

Item 8(e): 10 members representing as far as possible all Trinity Hall interests, *of whom at least 8 shall be current Year Reps at the time of their appointment*.

The President explained that the removal of the second part of Item 8(e) would be consistent with the aim to broaden the membership of the Committee, to ensure diversity and succession planning.

The amendment was proposed by Emily Bosley, seconded by Dr Chris Angus, and approved by a large majority.

5. Secretary's Report: The Secretary, Dr David Billett (1968) spoke to his report, which had been published on the College website:

- The Committee was glad to have held all of its recent scheduled meetings in person. Some online meetings will nevertheless be retained in future.
- Business has included communications, formulating questions regarding the THA for the recent Alumni Survey, Volunteer Awards and finance. Litigation issues remain ongoing.
- THA Awards are a major aspect of our engagement with the student community. At this point Lizzy Iron gave an update on projects for 2020-21 awardees Rachel Bright, Daisy Ungaya, George Laing, Emily Udell and Dipin Adhikari; and for 2022 awardees Jess O'Thompson, Nathan Davies and Lauren Smewing. These projects reflect a widening in access and scope. Some Awards have been home based to be affordable. Unfortunately, not all the Awards have been taken up; Dipin Adhikari's project was postponed and Lauren Smewing's was cancelled.
- Events are beginning to recover from the restrictions of Covid-19. The Riddle's Court dinner in Edinburgh was eventually held in November 2021. Typically, it was supported by alumni and their guests both locally and from further afield, representing many decades of matriculation years. A similarly successful regional dinner was held at the Shakespeare Memorial Library, Birmingham in March. The Royal Armouries, Leeds is the location of our next regional dinner, in November. One is planned in the Bristol/Bath area in 2023. As indicated in the Survey, suggestions for events are welcomed.
- The Secretary is personally very appreciative of the constant support of the Committee and the staff of the Alumni and Development Office.

6. Financial Report: The Finance Officer, Mr Roy Warden (1973), referred to his report for 2021/2022, which had been published on the website.

- He gave a reminder of the financial timetable. The most up to date accounts are for June 2021, available on the website since November 2021. The accounts for June 2022 await the audit of the College accounts, which includes the endowment, They will come to the Committee in November and be published soon afterwards.
- The capital element of the endowment remains healthy, at more than £850,000.
- The effects of Covid-19 are felt, but very substantial legal costs are dominant. However, litigation is now concluded.

7. Any other business

Dr Chris Angus proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Rachelle Stretch and her team in the Alumni & Development Office, to unanimous approval.

Two questions that had been submitted before the AGM were read out and the full text is below:

Question 1: THA said at last year's AGM that: 'Roger Mckinlay, who had been invited to remain in the Chair for the remainder of the AGM, said that the Committee would consider the

case for online/hybrid meetings. He also reminded members that the THA is not a charity and does not have charitable objectives’.

THA’s prime purpose is: ‘To provide an organisation that will keep Trinity Hall members worldwide in touch with each other and with the College’. Would hybrid AGMs allow members worldwide to take part, and could there be some events outside the UK to further this aim.

Answer: This year we have introduced a hybrid AGM for the first time. We are listening to the alumni here. The College has a regular programme of connecting with alumni internationally.

Question 2: In its minutes of 10th September 2003 at paragraph 3.b the minutes say: *‘the President indicated that 250k could hopefully be made available to THA from charitable funds within its control but which would have to have some charitable purpose.’*

There appears to be a contradiction. As we are aware, THA has this endowment and the benefactor stated that the money has to be used for a charitable purpose, but Roger McKinlay says: *‘THA is not a charity and has no charitable objectives.’* This indicates a lack of reconciliation of the dilemma about THA’s ability to use the endowment for the types of charitable purposes intended by the donor. Questions arising are;

- i) If THA has identified a charitable purpose, do we need to repay the donation?
- ii) If THA intends to use the income for non-charitable purposes, how will it indemnify members for any claims?
- iii) Or if THA wishes to receive donations/endowments made for charitable purposes, how can THA be refocused to carry out charitable purposes?

Answer: What a former President might have said in 2003 is not pertinent here. The endowment was made in 2004 and the THA’s objectives were set out at that time. The THA has never claimed, nor been granted, any benefit as a charity or for pursuing charitable activities. Our activities are all consistent with the objectives set out at the time of the endowment. No issue arises about indemnifying members. The THA relies on the endowment and does not seek donations or other income (other than the accounts paid for attending events).

In response to further questions:

- Details of joining the AGM remotely were provided in advance to those who requested it.
- The relevant accounts are available on the website.
- Biographies of Committee Members were available on the website and can be included with AGM material in future.

The President thanked all the members present, the Committee and the College. The meeting closed at 6:30 pm.