

Minutes of the 233rd Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 11 June 2019

The meeting was opened by Mr Tom Ibison who welcomed Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE, Past President of the Royal College of Midwives and recently retired Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, her husband Ronald and our Toast givers, Mr Paul Walton, Dr Ennis O'Donnell, Rev Fr Bob Halshaw and Canon Kevin Kenny. Prayers were offered for our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Tom proposed the toast to the Queen – Duke of Lancaster and everyone joined in with singing the National Anthem – “God Save the Queen” led by Mr Chris Jenner.

Minutes of the last AGM on 22 May 2018 had been circulated to all members and were moved, seconded and accepted by all.

Treasurer's report by Mr Tim Haley. Reports and accounts have been made available to all on the tables and were gone through by Tim including income and expenditure, and current reserves.

A new framework for the Society is being proposed as we have been a reactive charity in recent times. The Trustees looked at the remit of the Society and would like to be more proactive within the rules by having a look at how we could make a difference in the local community.

The board is proposing a plan to make charitable giving of about £30,000 per annum divided between £10,000 of petitions which normally come in to the Society, and to donate £20,000 per annum by supporting 10 local charities giving £2,000 each per year over a 5 year period. They can plan more efficiently, and we can promote their aims, ideals and Catholic values to a wider audience. Each applicant charity would have to pass due diligence and examples were given of Harbour House, Chorley Help the Homeless, ACE project by Caritas Care, and Salford Loaves and Fishes. Therefore, the Board are asking for approval and this was moved, seconded and accepted by all.

The closing date for submission of petitions for this year is 25 June. Please contact us if you have suggestions of good local, charitable causes for us to support.

A request is being made to increase life membership from £60 to £200 to help with future funding and this was moved, seconded and accepted by all. A plea was made to donate when you are able to, with Gift Aid where possible. Accounts were moved, seconded and accepted by all.

The Secretary's report has been put on the table and Peter Van Parys was available to answer any queries. The report was moved, seconded and accepted by all.

Dr Tony Pritchard and Mr Chris Jenner's term of office expires at this meeting. Chris has indicated his willingness to accept re-appointment. A nomination for Dr John Leneghan was moved, seconded and accepted by all. Tom thanked Dr Pritchard for all his work whilst on the Board over many years. Mr Mike Bradley and Fr David Elder who have also stepped down were also thanked for their work. Prayers were asked for Fr Elder who is currently unwell. Mr John Cadden stepped down as his term as Immediate Past President has come to an end, and he was thanked for all his efforts and support.

A formal welcome to the Board was made by Tom to Monsignor Stephen Alker (Liverpool), Rev Fr Peter Fox (Liverpool) and Monsignor John Corcoran (Salford). Tom asked everyone to make an effort to try to recruit new members, especially younger members. In addition, thanks were given to all our Lady members. A reminder was made to keep the annual newsletter throughout the year as booking forms for the Christmas meal are also included. This is also available on the Internet or you can contact the Secretary by email, which helps with our postal expenses.

Thanks were made for the Broughton Society Mass held this morning with special thanks to Canon Horn for celebrating the Mass and Mr Anthony Donlan the Broughton Society Organist. This was a really lovely occasion. Thanks also to Mr Stephen Evans, Mr Patrick Felix-Vas and Mr Tony Lamb for taking Subs and donations. A special thanks was given to our Secretary and Treasurer for all their hard work.

There then followed the customary toasts and speeches.

Election of President for 2019/20 and 2020/2021. Mr David Tetlow was duly elected as President for 2019/2020 and Mr Stephen Evans as Vice-President.

The meeting was closed by Tom with thanks to everyone for attending and Faith of Our Fathers was sung led by Mr Chris Jenner.