

**The Friends of the Moot Hall Organ**  
**Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Present:** Patron Sir Bob Russell Committee -Nigel Chapman, Mary Chapman Ian Ray, Michael Vernon, Derek Lorkin, and Jennifer Perry Members Christopher Arnold, Rosie Lorkin and Wendy Hildreth

**Apologies for Absence:** Patrons: Ashley Grote, Allan Blundell and Cllr John Jowers (Mayor of Colchester) Committee: Mike Hogg and Alison Smith and 4 members (list attached)

**Minutes of AGM 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022** These had been circulated and were agreed.

**Chair's Report:** This had been circulated, was read out by the chair and is attached to these minutes. The chair added that, as we all knew, since the end of the Financial Year the situation regarding the Moot Hall roof had deteriorated and the hall was now closed and there was no likelihood of recitals resuming until early next year. (See below)

A discussion took place regarding the income from the Retiring Collections at the Recitals. The average donation, the Chair estimated between £2.50 and £3 per attender, which it was agreed should be more considering the quality of the organists playing. Various ideas were discussed to increase income and the chair explained that he had intended to tackle this, but the cessation of recitals had meant he could not do so. It was agreed that, when feasible, he would rewrite the note that had been circulated to the audience two or three years previously explaining the need for financial support for the recitals. He would approach the Recital supporters that we contact by email to suggest they become members. Finally, it was agreed that we would look at accepting donations by credit/debit cards -Christopher Arnold offered his Reader.

**Treasurer's Report:** The accounts were presented to the meeting by the Chair, agreed and are attached to these minutes. This year they had been examined by Alderman Christopher Arnold who had made three comments and he read these to the meeting. These related to Gift Aid, Recitalists Fees and IT Costs. The chair had responded and both letters were attached to these Minutes. The chair explained that a donation of £250 for 'Charitable/Political Donations' shown in the accounts was for the Ukranian Appeal in October. Alderman Arnold was thanked for his work.

**Confirmation of Patrons:** Allan Blundell MBE, Ashley Grote, Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Mayor of Colchester (ex officio), Lord Petre, Sir Bob Russell and Will Quince MP were confirmed as Patrons.

**Appointment of Committee for 2023-2024:** In addition to the Trustees Cllr Nigel Chapman, Alison Smith and Mike Vernon, Mary Chapman, Cllr Mike Hogg, Derek Lorkin, Jennifer Perry, and Ian Ray were proposed by Christopher Arnold and agreed nem con

**Appointment of Officers for 2023-2024:** It was proposed by Wendy Hildreth that Nigel Chapman be Chair, Mary Chapman Secretary and Membership Secretary and Alison Smith, Treasurer. This was agreed nem con

**Report on the organ:** Ian Ray reported that the Organ had been behaving itself before the enforced shut down, but he was concerned that it had not been played since mid-March.

**Report on the Moot Hall:** The chair presented a brief paper (attached) that outlined the action taken by the City Council thus far to repair the Moot Hall roof and their commitment to consult Harrison & Harrison to safeguard the organ over the coming months of building work. After considerable debate it was agreed unanimously that the Chair contacts the Chief Executive of the Council to convey the concerns that were expressed during the discussions. (This is also attached to these Minutes)

**Future Activities:** it was agreed that, in view of the current situation, we cannot plan any events.

Alderman Arnold requested the thanks of the meeting be recorded to the Officers and Committee for their work over the last year; this was agreed.