

23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 26th February 2022
MINUTES

DORSET GROUP

Debbie welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was then chaired by Eric Watson.

Apologies were received from Gilly Baxter, Jan Cooke, Felicity Frost, Judy Spratley, Val Weston.

Minutes of the AGM 2021, had been circulated previously. There were no matters arising. They were proposed by Sheila Westgate, seconded by Janice Walters and accepted unanimously as a true record.

Chairman's Report: Debbie said that she was standing down as chairman. She thanked everyone & said how lovely it had been to work with all committee members past & present over the last 8 years, 3 as group treasurer and 5 as group chairman. She also thanked everyone who had helped at meetings and said that there had been many positive changes during the past 8 years, including the introduction of lanyards, volunteer lists for meetings, the development of day trips, the group annual holiday and providing homemade cakes at meetings. The group had undoubtedly been affected by the covid pandemic, but had survived because it had financial reserves. Meetings had started up again slowly in July 2021, being made as safe as possible, with attendances now building up again.

Liz Underwood would be taking over the organisation of the monthly helpers' rota from now on.

Group membership has now been closed to new members, so people should treasure their membership. The group currently has 212 members, with 9 people already on the waiting list to join. She was disappointed that the potential move to the Barrington Theatre from Colehill was not going ahead. Only 47 people out of all those who attended the trial meeting in January provided comments, with the votes being split 50/50. This equated to only around 10% of the membership voting for a move to the Barrington, which gave the committee no mandate to decide to do so. Eric thanked Debbie for everything she had done over the past 8 years.

Debbie's report was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Annual Statement of Accounts (which had been checked independently), These had been available for members to view on the group's website and were displayed on-screen today. The accounts were proposed by Sue Collins and seconded by Joan Smithies, all in favour.

Election of Officers: There had been no nomination for the role of chairman.

Richard Cooke, Treasurer, nominated unopposed.

Gilly Baxter, Secretary, nominated unopposed.

All were elected unanimously.

Election of Committee: Rowena Jecock, Helen McIlmurray, Liz Underwood and Judy Spratley, all nominated unopposed. All were proposed by James Westgate and seconded by Marion Davies and were elected unanimously. Eric presented flowers and a voucher for afternoon tea to Debbie & flowers to Penny, to thank them for their hard work on the committee.

Any Other Business: Rowena Jecock presided over the issues discussed under AOB.

With no chairman now in position, the committee would continue to work hard for the group. It would carry on looking for an alternative suitable venue to accommodate a larger membership, with any suggestions from members being gratefully received.

Anyone who might consider taking on the role of chairman, please come forward and chat to Rowena. In addition to chairman, the group also needs a webmaster, to run & update the group's website.

Rowena thanked all volunteers who had helped at today's AGM and at meetings over the past few months. Would anyone who could help at future meetings, please come forward to Liz.

Dorset group membership costs £5 per year, which is very cheap. The cost of membership for 2023 will be increasing. Members will be informed well before January 2023, so that any standing orders can be changed well in advance.

As group membership is now closed, no visitors will be able to attend meetings. However, visitors will be able to come on day trips and the holiday, if there are spaces available.

Marion Davies agreed that £5 was far too low for membership of such a fantastic group. She hoped that everyone would support the committee.

Rowena thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 2.30pm.

Signed as a true copy

Andrew Haynes, President

February 2023