



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Law Society held at the Society's Hall on Thursday 17 July 2008, at 14:40, following the conclusion of the Special General Meeting. The President, Andrew Holroyd, was in the chair.

Quorum

The President stated that there were more than 50 members of the Law Society present and declared a quorum.

Notice of meeting

The notice of the meeting was taken as read.

Minutes of previous special general meeting

The President said that the Bye-Laws provided that the first item of business at any general meeting was to approve the minutes of the preceding general meeting. However, this was not possible in the present instance, as the SGM had only just concluded. The minutes of the SGM and the AGM would therefore be presented for approval at the next general meeting.

Election of Council members

The President said that there had been 17 vacancies in the geographical constituencies this year, none of which had been contested, and accordingly declared that the following had been elected unopposed as Council members for the geographical constituencies shown:

Constituency No 2 The City of London: David Angus McIntosh and Paul Barnes

Constituency No 3 Holborn: David Treharne Morgan

Constituency No 4 North East London: Timothy John Mutti

Constituency No 5 West London: Michael Morris Franks

Constituency No 8 The City of Westminster: Peter Gordon Adams

Constituency No 17 Dorset: Timothy Dermot Joseph O'Sullivan

Constituency No 18 West Country and Gwent: Patricia Margaret Lush

Constituency No 20 Mid and West Wales: Carolyn Kirby

Constituency No 24 Wolverhampton and Staffordshire: Christopher Andrew Clark

Constituency No 26 Merseyside and District: William Andrew Myers Holroyd

Constituency No 27 Manchester, Salford, Stockport and District: Nigel Gold Sidney Day

Constituency No 29 Cumbria and Lancaster: Gaynor Lewis Wragg

Constituency No 30 Northumbria: Paul Anthony Finch

Constituency No 31 Yorkshire: Philip Christopher Hamer

Constituency No 34 Lincolnshire: Stuart John Collingham

Constituency No 40 Essex: Brian Robert John Owen Hughes

Retiring Council members

On behalf of the meeting, the President paid tribute to the work done for the profession by a number of Council members who were retiring at the conclusion of the meeting, whose names, constituencies and number of years of service were as follows –

Fiona Woolf (No 2 The City of London – 21 years, during which she served as President 2006-2007)

Richard Miller (Legal Aid Practitioners' Group – seven years)

David Foster (Housing Law – six years)

Ian Francis (No 39 Norfolk – six years)

Debrah Ball (Education and Training – three years)

Dafydd Jones (Solicitors in Local Government – three years)

David Marshall (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers – three years)

Dawood Pervez (Commerce and Industry – three years)

Paul Stookes (Environmental Law – three years)

Jonathan Goolden (No 34 Lincolnshire – two years)

Michael Robinson (No 30 Northumbria – two years)

Resolution 1 (Annual Report)

The President moved Resolution 1 on the notice of the meeting, which was –

That the Annual Report of the Council be received.

The Vice-President (Paul Marsh) seconded the resolution.

It was resolved, on a show of hands, that the Annual Report of the Council be received.

Resolution 2 (Accounts)

The Treasurer (Philip Hamer) moved Resolution 2 on the notice of the meeting, which was –

That the Accounts signed by the Auditors be approved.

The Treasurer paid tribute to the work of Bill Bilimoria, who had served as Acting Director Finance, and thanked the Auditors, BDO Stoy Hayward, for their help. He also welcomed Rona Chester, who had recently joined the Society as Director of Finance.

The Vice-President seconded the resolution.

It was resolved, on a show of hands, that the Accounts signed by the Auditors be approved.

Resolution 3 (Bye-Law amendments consequential upon provisions in Legal Services Act)

Resolution 3 on the notice of the meeting read –

That in order to continue (with adjustments) the effect of Sections 76-78 of the Solicitors Act 1974 (to be repealed by the Legal Services Act 2007) the amendments to the Bye-Laws set out in Appendix II be made, such amendments to come into force from the date the repeals of those sections take effect, and, in the case of amendment No 1, subject to the coming into force of an amendment to the Charter, on which it is contingent.

The Vice-President moved the resolution, and it was seconded by the Deputy Vice-President.

It was resolved, on a show of hands, that in order to continue (with adjustments) the effect of Sections 76-78 of the Solicitors Act 1974 (to be repealed by the Legal Services Act 2007) the amendments to the Bye-Laws set out in Appendix II be made, such amendments to come into force from the date the repeals of those sections take effect, and, in the case of amendment No 1, subject to the coming into force of an amendment to the Charter, on which it is contingent.

Resolution 4 (Bye-Law amendments: affiliate status)

Resolution 4 on the notice of the meeting read –

That the Council be given enabling powers to create a new status for holders of affiliate status, so that the term 'affiliate' can be used for other purposes, and that the amendments to the Bye-Laws in Appendix III be made.

Kevin Martin (Coventry), a Council member and Chair of the Membership Board, moved the resolution. Mr Martin said this resolution had a similar purpose to Charter amendments proposed at the SGM. The proposal could be achieved by amendments to the Bye-Laws, since affiliate status was dealt with in the Bye-Laws rather than in the Charter.

The Vice-President seconded the resolution.

It was resolved, on a show of hands that the Council be given enabling powers to create a new status for holders of affiliate status, so that the term 'affiliate' can be used for other purposes, and that the amendments to the Bye-Laws in Appendix III be made.

Vivien Stern (West London) demanded a postal vote on the question. This demand was not supported by the requisite 20 members, and so no postal vote would take place.

Any other business

Jeffrey Forrest (City of Westminster and Holborn), a Council member, asked what the cost of the postal vote would be. The Chief Executive said the cost would be around £85,000.

Sue Carter asked whether notices of meetings could be sent to members by e-mail. The Chief Executive said that the Society did not hold all members' e-mail addresses.

Concluding remarks by the President

The President gave a short address, summarising the key issues faced by the Society in his year of office, and mentioning the achievements which had been realised in many areas, such as legal aid and improving communication with the profession. He thanked his family for all their support, and paid tribute to the hard work of the other office-holders, Council members, the Chief Executive and other Society staff.

Vote of thanks to President

Donal Bannon (Liverpool), Immediate Past President of the Liverpool Law Society, moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing President, Andrew Holroyd, paying particular tribute to his work in the field of human rights and strengthening the Society's engagement with firms of all sizes. Liverpool was proud of him.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Presentation of badges of office

The President then invested his successor, Paul Marsh, with the badge of office as President. The new President responded, referring to some of the themes of the coming year, and the role of the Society, which was to provide a landscape in which the profession could flourish and grow.

The new President then invested Robert Heslett with his badge of office as Vice-President. The new Vice-President responded briefly.

The new Vice-President then invested Linda Lee with her badge of office as Deputy Vice-President. The new Deputy Vice-President responded briefly.

The President declared the meeting closed at 15:20, and thanked members for their attendance.