

## **Summary of the fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Great Western Society Ltd held in the Ladygrove Room at Didcot Civic Hall, 12 October 2024**

### **Board members present:**

RA Preston	Chairman	JB O'Hagan	Deputy Chairman
RJ Varley	Company Secretary	JB Crouch	Treasurer
AJ Keys	Director	M Khan	Director
LS Donaldson	Director	L Walsham	Co-opted director
R Heron	Co-opted director		

### **Also present:**

C Hetherington Chief Executive

### **Members Present:**

In addition to the Board members & Chief Executive, above, there were 42 members present. Apologies were received from Chris Clarke 8750, Steve Cooper 1703, Viv Cooper 500 and John Plant 633 (Director).

### **1. To approve and adopt the Accounts for the year ending 31 January 2024 together with the report of the Board thereon.**

Peter Jones 1643 proposed acceptance of the full accounts and Ann Middleton 7531 seconded. Accepted with no objections and 3 abstentions.

### **2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14 October 2023.**

Acceptance was proposed by Richard Beacham 3821 and seconded by Martin Buckland 10471. The motion was passed unanimously with 6 abstentions.

### **3. To approve the Society's Review of the year 2022-2023 including the summary accounts for the year ending 31 January 2023.**

Acceptance was proposed by Tim Part 8285 and seconded by Ron Head 1723. Passed unanimously.

### **4. To re-elect Board Members:**

Mocky Khan 23445 sought re-election to the Board on rotation.

Mocky Khan was proposed by Nick Hards 14568 and seconded by Andrew Snell 4899. Mocky was elected by the meeting with 3 against and 8 abstentions.

### **5. To elect new Board Members**

Ann Middleton 7531 sought election to the Board.

Ann Middleton was proposed by Paul Harley 3866 and seconded by Amyas Crump 2992. Ann was elected by those present with one abstention.

Robert Heron 10440 sought election to the Board after serving as a co-opted director.

Robert Heron was proposed by Tim Part 8285 and seconded by Charlie McCarthy 20177. Robert was elected by the meeting.

Leanne Walsham was proposed by Frank Dumbleton 72 and seconded by Betty Baldry 16479. Leanne was elected by the meeting with 16 abstentions.

**6. To re-appoint Wellers as Auditors and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.**

Proposed by Roy Stannett 6960 and seconded by Richard Beacham 3821 . Carried with 1 abstention.

**7. Summary**

Richard Preston closed the formal part of the meeting.

**Summary of the Informal Meeting of the Great Western Society held in the Ladygrove Room at Didcot Civic Hall, 12 October 2024**

Chairman Richard Preston opened the informal meeting after the break following the formal meeting and then handed over to Chief Executive Clive Hetherington.

Clive said this was his 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM as CE, and that this year he had changed things around by playing all the videos from the different departments at the start of the meeting so that all the important things will have been said and answered in the videos. He said that most of what he needed to say had been covered in the formal AGM, and that he would do a short talk after the videos had been run.

Commercial Resilience. This is going to be a major issue and keeps coming up in our HLF application. We will not get grants unless we can prove we can actually be here in 10-, 20- or 30-years' time. The goal is to double our visitor numbers without operating any more engines on site, as we are already suffering a lack of operating staff. We need to work the site, such as having picnics and day-camps. We will have to have the site open every day in the summer holidays and increase our school attendances. We have a plan in development, but it needs your input.

Clive finished by thanking the directors and reminding everyone that they too are volunteers who contribute hugely to his work and the work of the GWS.

Questions were taken from the floor and responses provided.

Richard Preston closed the meeting.