

THE FRIENDS OF LANCING CHAPEL

Charity Number: 241403

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 15 October 2020 at 6.00pm via on-line webinar

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone attending (about 35 in total), not just Friends but also former parents and former staff, via Zoom webinar and said how wonderful it was to be able to report the progress made with the Appeal and with the building of the porch; if he had been told at last year's AGM that the Appeal target of £350k would be met by today but for £2000 he would not have believed it. He said it would have been a terrific achievement in normal times, but given COVID the achievement is extraordinary and he thanked all those who have contributed, particularly those working on the appeal and all donors. The building contract is proceeding apace, although 6-7 weeks behind schedule and the building should now be completed early next year. There were many discussions when COVID struck, and it was in the balance whether to continue with the project, but if the work had been put on ice it is quite doubtful whether it would have been possible to resurrect it at a later date. Today is therefore a day for celebration. Of course, no-one can visit at the present time, but the Friends will be given priority when Chapel is re-opened to visitors. There are some photos available, and all those attending this webinar will get some up-to-date photos in the next few days. The Hon Secretary will give details of the progress in his report.

Please keep questions until the end of the agenda.

The Chairman reported that the Hon Treasurer is unwell but fully active at home working on the accounts and she has given the Hon Secretary up to date figures. Copies of the full audited accounts for 2019-20 can be sent on application to the Hon Secretary. The value of the Friends' investments fell to £127k at beginning of the COVID pandemic in March but have now returned to £153k and there is also £405k available in liquid funds, making the Friends' total assets £0.5m. The Friends will need funds in future for maintenance and conservation objectives, but it will be very satisfying to say the building will be finished.

The Chairman then welcomed the Head Master to the meeting, and also the Chaplain who said two prayers, the first for all those working on the Chapel, the second for everyone.

2 MINUTES of the AGM of 14 September 2019

The Minutes were agreed nem con and will be signed by the Chairman when he is next able to visit Lancing.

3 ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS

Chairman: His Honour Peter Birts QC,

Hon Secretary: Jeremy Tomlinson

Hon Treasurer: Pauline Bulman

The re-election of the officers listed above was proposed by Catherine Reeve, seconded by Ginny Ward, and agreed nem con.

4 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The re-election of the Executive Committee en bloc as listed in the Annual Report 2020, with the exception of the Ven Philip Jones, who has resigned, was proposed by Roger Overton-Smith, seconded by Tim Hancock, and agreed nem con.

The Chairman pointed out that he retired from the Bench four years ago and so should no longer be listed as 'Judge'.

5 Hon TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was unable to attend due to illness, so her report was presented by the Hon Secretary, who has been in touch with her. The annual accounts to 31/3/20 were published in summary in the annual report; the full audited accounts would be ready in a few days' time, when copies will be available to anyone on request. The financial situation changed considerably since the end of March. There were additional administrative expenses in 2019-20 because of the cost of the appeal, which will of course reduce. Income during the year from visitors and other sources was very good, but has been hit very badly during the pandemic. The current financial situation is distorted because of the appeal and being currently in a contract for over £1m. The appeal for £350k

launched at last year's AGM was the balance required for the building contract, administration and fees. The balance now needed is only £2863, of which £800 is an outstanding donation, so in fact only £2063 is now needed. The list of donors shows how many individuals have supported the appeal and how generous they have been, along with a few charitable trusts including All Churches, Linbury, Sainsburys, Steele Trust and John Booth Charitable Trust. The appeal is therefore almost complete but it cannot be stressed enough that the Chapel will need ongoing funding and it will be essential to ensure a continuing flow of income for maintenance and conservation, to which many are already making generous regular contributions and the online contactless donation system was working well before COVID stopped visitors.

The current financial position is distorted because money is in the current accounts to meet payments for the stonework contract and architect and quantity surveyor fees which are all being paid more or less monthly. These accessible funds considerably exceed what is expected to have to be paid, right up to the retention on the contract: £334,366.92 in accessible accounts, plus £75,000 expected in the next week from a major donor, so a total of £409,366.92. The total of investments in 2019 of £350k was divided in two, leaving half in long term investments for maintenance commitments and the other half was put into the appeal. The half left in investments went down in value to £127k in March but is now back to a valuation of £153k, so that the Friends are in a very comfortable position overall.

6 Hon SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon Secretary expressed his tremendous gratitude to all in the Head Master's Office, particularly in the Foundation Office led by Catherine Reeve and the Marketing Department led by Diana Cree, stating that the achievements of the last year could not have been done without them and the results are there for all to see. He also thanked the Bursary and Estates Bursar for their assistance with management of the contract, and especially when everything was very much in doubt in March due to practical reasons related to COVID. This meant that suppliers have not been operating as normal, it has been difficult to get people on site, the masons have been affected by family COVID concerns, but all initial problems have been overcome.

The stone covering of the north-facing wall from the foundations of the original building is now almost completed and considerably improves overall appearance, the south buttress is almost to the bottom of the rose window and the north buttress is now high enough to support the arches. The outline of the new arches is now in place over the wooden framework with the keystones being put in place yesterday. Louise Rendell, the assistant architect, has done a great deal, as Michael Drury has had to be shielding, but was able to be present yesterday for the placing of the keystones. The buttresses will be completed once the arches have been infilled to balustrade level, then the porch roof, ceiling and paving and various other details. The repaving of the narthex will be done this coming half term holiday. It is hoped also to be able to do something about the surface of the drive at the front of the Chapel. There have been a great deal of discussion and cooperation with the School, which is a very positive sign for the future.

The Friends continually contribute to the maintenance of the Chapel: this summer £33k was spent on rope access conservation of stonework at the apse end, with pointing, repainting of ferramenta, and some emergency work on the copper spire on the south side. Handrails on all steps to the crypt have been installed for safety reasons, also contributing to improvements; replacement of the fire alarm system being investigated and the upgrading of various electrical installations is being planned. In summary, a very active year to which the Friends have contributed large sums and goodwill.

The Guides have not been able to be on duty, and there have been no visitors - an advantage for the contractors but a pity because there has been, and continues to be, plenty to see. The Secretary expressed thanks to the Guides for their continued interest and for their essays, with particular thanks to Ginny Ward and to the verger, Andrew Wynn-Mackenzie. The Friends will be at top of invitation list to visit when the Chapel reopens. The building should be finished in February, with a Dedication Service sometime later in 2021 with the exact date currently under discussion. It is hoped that the next AGM will be a real live one! Some photos and a newsletter would be sent out in the next few days.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Chairman pointed out that the constitutional objectives of the Friends will need to be amended once the Chapel is complete to concentrate on maintenance, but the Committee feels that the word 'maintenance' is slightly insufficient and will therefore put to the 2021 AGM an amendment to add the words 'conservation and enhancement of the fabric' to 'maintenance' and delete 'completion'. He requested that any other suggestions for the change in wording should be sent to him, kept as brief as possible.

8 CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

There were no questions from those attending the meeting.

The Hon Secretary added to his report by stating that this porch is designed to be the most economical without doing a disservice to the rest of the architecture, but it is not small, and should be impressive when seen.

The Chairman then expressed the gratitude of the Friends to all those responsible in the College for running and executing the appeal: all those involved in publicity, the Bursar and his staff, and the Estates Bursar, but especially to Jeremy Tomlinson, for all his work and achievements on behalf of the Chapel, to Catherine Reeve as the essential link between the College and the Friends, to Diana Cree for her commitment to the chapel project, and also to the Head Master and the governors for their support.

He finished by thanking everyone for attending and particularly to Catherine Reeve for setting up and hosting the webinar.