



CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

British Catholic History

Reg'd Charity no. 313529



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Online on Saturday 5 December, at 11 a.m.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies** had been received from Mgr Allen, Dr Chapman, Mr Fitzalan-Howard, Mr Freeman, Fr Hetherington, Bishop Hudson, Dr Kelly, Mr Meredith, and Dr Nockles.

2. Amendment of Constitution

The Secretary had received the necessary notice as laid out under Section 14(a) of the CRS Constitution (2007), "Amendment of Constitution". This business required a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, under Section 14(b) of the Constitution.

a. The Chair of Council proposed that Section 10 of the Constitution, "General Meetings", be amended by the addition below.

10 (e). Any business of the Society that would normally be conducted by some or all of the membership meeting in person may also be conducted by means of remote electronic communication, subject to such conditions (including conditions as to voting) as the Council may determine, in consultation with the Custodial Trustees.

Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr Doyle. Passed nem con.

b (i). The Chair of Council had proposed that Section 3 of the Constitution, "Management", be amended as below, with effect from the AGM 2021.

3 (b). The Council shall elect one of their number as Chairman of the Council annually for a term of four years at the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) after the office has fallen vacant.

b (ii). The Chair of Council requested that (after correspondence with a member of the Society on a procedural matter) his proposed amendment be itself amended, thus.

3 (b). The Council shall elect one of their number as Chairman of the Council annually for a term of four years at the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) after the office has fallen vacant. In the event of his or her term of office as an ordinary member of Council ceasing during that time, he or she will be co-opted as a member of Council until such time as his or her term as Chair ceases, whereupon a fresh election to the Chair will be made by Council following the election of members to Council at the Annual General Meeting, in the ordinary way.

Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr James. Passed nem con.

b (iii). Professor Sheils' amended amendment was put to the vote.

Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Mrs Smeaton. Passed nem con.

Responding to Dr Doyle, the Hon. Secretary confirmed that there was no restriction on an outgoing Chair being elected for a further term of office.

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM & Matters Arising

There were no matters arising, and the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were deemed to be a true record.

4. Adoption of the Annual Report 2019-20

No questions to the Officers of the Society had been submitted; the meeting duly voted on the adoption of the Annual Report.

Proposer: Mrs Smeaton; Seconder: Mr Powell. Passed nem con.

5. Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2019-20

No questions to the Treasurer had been submitted, and the meeting duly voted on the adoption of the Annual Accounts.

Proposer: Mr Powell; Seconder: Dr James. Passed nem con.

6. Council

The Chair of Council proposed—under Section 4 of the Constitution, “Election of Council”—that all Honorary Officers be confirmed in office until the AGM 2021.

Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr Doyle. Passed nem con.

Responding to Professor Sheils, the Hon. Secretary confirmed that he had corresponded with Dr Nockles, whose term of office on Council had now come to an end. To avoid a constitutional anomaly it would be proposed that Dr Nockles be co-opted onto Council until the next AGM.

7. The AGM in 2021 would take place on 20 July 2021, hopefully at The Bar Convent, York, or online if necessary.

8. No Other Business had been submitted.

Professor Sheils thanked members for their attendance, and extended particular appreciation to the Honorary Officers and the other members of Council for their work on behalf of the Society in the course of a very difficult year. Should the Annual Conference 2021 not be able to meet in York, it would take place online; an online option might well become a permanent fixture for the benefit of the Society's international members. The CRS would enter into partnership with The University of Notre Dame in London, and co-sponsor its Winter Lecture this year (Dr Carmen Mangion). A volume of John Ryan cartoons, edited by CRS member Dr Alana Harris, was on its way to all members, as a Christmas gift.

The meeting ended at 11.17. An informal and congenial discussion continued, during which it was particularly good to welcome and hear from some overseas members of the Society.