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Minutes of the meeting of the AGM of TVLS held on 1 October 2020 5.30pm by remote attendance on Zoom

Present: Chris Noon, Michelle Coulson, Dermot Winters, Nicola Neilson, Rebecca Maddock, Lawrence Petterson, Brian Farrell, Simon Wake, Joshua Atkinson, Marta Studholm, Martin Hobson (Clive Owen), Allan Devine

Apologies: Hilton Armstrong, Irene Cox, Nikita Noel, Jeremy Spooner, Karen Armstrong, Jane Midgeley, Fergus Grant, Philip Duffy, Tom Moss

In attendance:

Observer:

Absent:

Action

1. Welcome:

Meeting opened. Meeting is not quorate as there are 8 voting members present and 3 non-voting members present.

The TVLS Rules require an AGM to be held every 15 months. Due to the COVID-19 unprecedented times, the current AGM was delayed and Council agreed to hold a remote AGM.

It was decided that the AGM should be opened. It would not be possible to approve new office holders without a quorum but in light of the unprecedented circumstances, the current office holders are to remain in office until a quorum may be established and a vote may then be taken. At the current time, there have been no nominations for president, senior vice president or junior president. The TVLS Rules do not provide for exceptional circumstances and it was agreed that the AGM would be opened and adjourned until a quorum may be established.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 19 June 2019

The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Approval of the Accounts for the Society for 2019

Clive Owen report provided for year ending December 2019 to all attendees. Martin Hobson presented the report to the meeting and confirmed;

- Subscriptions are down from 2018 from £7300 last year to £6650.
- There was an increased in the surplus activities from £2763 to £2133.
- Expenditures overall were broadly similar.
- Investment income decreased from £1931 to £1398
- The profit loss on sale (some were disposed of during the year) from £403 in 2018 to £1244 in 2019. The tax on gain for sale for 2019 was £5182 when in 2018 it was £5940.
- The uplift this year was near £7,000 and the year before there was a loss of nearly £7000.
- The society net increase in value of assets up to December 2019 was £800.
- The balance sheet shows £66,000 in the Quilter Cheviott investment. Since then, the investment has been cashed in (prior to the slump from COVID19) and the cash is in the TVLS account ready to be reinvested. The value of investments have decreased significantly over 2020 and it was therefore a good time to cash in the investment.
- Cash in the bank was £5600, an increase on the previous year.
- The society's activities included annual dinner ticket sales and sponsorship. In 2018 ticket sales were £8110 and this year £6430. However, sponsorship in 2018 was included in the ticket sales where the sponsors were taking tables in exchange for sponsorship or as part of the sponsorship package. The expenditure for the annual dinner was less, meaning that overall the net income was a similar figure to the year before £1900.
- There was a net surplus of £2133 from all activities.
- In 2019 there were no prizes awarded.
- In terms of the investment, nobody could predict COVID19. The positive news is that the investment was cashed in and is to be reinvested. The advice from Clive Owen is to focus on income sources to increase subscriptions.
- The accounts were proposed by DW and seconded by NN. The accounts were approved.

4 Presidents Annual Review

The President welcomed those present and recognised the challenging year that the profession has endured this year.

- TVLS held successful seminars this year:
In October Clive Owen presented seminars on – Tax implications of probate, and Capital Gains Tax.
In November TVLS held a seminar on SRA standards and regulations
In December we planned a seminar on employment law update but it could not go ahead due to lack of numbers.

In February Counsel Fay Collinson from Kings Chambers presented seminars on Probate

- It has been a short year to arrange events due to COVID19 TVLS aims to hold 6 further seminars/education events within the next 9 months.
- The President congratulated TVLS Council member Chris Noon on being selected to be a member of the National Law Society.
- The Annual Dinner event was held this year at Jurys Inn and there was an increase in barristers attending. A speech by journalist Peter Barron was well received. The President thanked Nicola Neilson for organising the Annual Dinner.
- The President has negotiated a discount scheme with 'reward me now' which will be free to all members and include discounts at leading retailers.
- The President expressed his gratitude to council members Chris Noon, Nicola Neilson, Michelle Coulson and Adam Crute for their work throughout the year on behalf of TVLS.

5. President's Update on the William Hutton Prize

The William Hutton prize was presented this year to Rebecca Webster, a trainee at Jacksons Law. All entrants were of a high calibre and Rebecca's initiative and work ethic were recognised with the presentation of the award.

7. Presentation by the President to Solicitors with 40+ years post qualification

Brian Farrell (40+)

Peter Blackett (50+) (presented in absence)

The President thanked Brian Farrell and Peter Blackett for their contribution to the profession.

8. Election of Members for Council 2019/2020

The meeting was not quorate due to insufficient voting members and there had been no nominations for Council office posts received.

Those Confirmed in Position UNTIL the AGM is reconvened are:

President:	Dermot Winters
Past President:	Chris Noon
Senior Vice President:	Lawrence Petterson
Junior Vice President:	Nikita Noel
Borough of Darlington (including Northallerton, Richmond, Leyburn and Hawes):	
Borough of Middlesbrough Great Ayton and Stokesley:	Rebecca Maddock
County Durham (excluding Darlington):	Chris Noon
General Member	Michelle Coulson

Stockton on Tees: Nicola Neilson
General Member: Rob Steer
Trainee Representative: Khudeza Miah

Retirement from Council:

Teesside University Representative: Michelle Gallagher
Teesside University Representative: Ben Middleton

Co-Opted Council Membership Approved:

Positions vacant:

Borough of Hartlepool and Peterlee
Borough of Redcar, Cleveland and Whitby
General Members

9. Appointment of Auditors

Clive Owen were confirmed. DW proposes and SW seconds.

10. Matters arising on the minutes, not elsewhere on the Agenda

None

11. Any other business at the discretion of the President.

council

The President confirms that TVLS will concentrate on holding events in the coming year and will explore opportunities to hold remote events while restrictions continue. Social events such as a proposed table quiz are even more important to provide an opportunity for members to socialise and support one another. A council meeting will be held shortly to consider how best to promote the local law society and its importance.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm

Signed: _____

Position: _____ **Date:** _____