

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ULSTER
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, HELD AT THE METER HOUSE, THE GAS
WORKS, ORMEAU ROAD, BELFAST ON WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7
PM**

The chair was taken by the President, Sir Donnell Deeny. Fifty-eight members were present.

The Chairman welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting in the magnificently restored Meter House.

1 The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

2 Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs W.B. Boyd, Dr Hugh W.L. Weir, Lord O'Neill, Mr W. Finlay Reid, Mr Paul Harron, Mr Simon Bridge, Lady Carswell, Mr & Mrs Adrian Huston, Mr Brian Campbell, Mr & Mrs. Brian Moore, Mr & Mrs T. Atkinson, Mrs Brownlow, Mrs Lydia Ingles, Mrs Demelza Hurley, Ms Alison Ince, Mr & Mrs P.O. Marlow, Ms Catherine Marlow, Ms Deirdre Thomas, Dr Dorothy Eagleson and Ms Margaret Lark.

3 The Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on 28th February 2007 were taken as read.

4 The Honorary Treasurer, who had distributed copies of his report and the audited accounts for 2007, summarised the main features of a year in which a modest financial surplus had been achieved, thanks mainly to the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner. On the proposal of Mrs Primrose Wilson, seconded by Miss Diana Taggart, the meeting duly received the Accounts.

5 The Chairman presented the Committee's report on the Society's activities since the previous AGM. The Society had continued to campaign actively on a variety of issues affecting the protection of the built heritage and had organised a wide-ranging and successful programme of events for the membership. Most notably, it had celebrated its 40th birthday with a Gala Dinner on the exact anniversary (24th November) and in the same venue (the Harbour Commissioners' Office) as the inaugural meeting, and an exhibition 'Defend and Inspire' that would be visiting Belfast and each of the nine counties of Ulster over the course of the year. She paid tribute to the excellent work done by the members of the Committee and sub-committees, and the Society's staff, in successfully taking forward such a major programme of work during the year.

The President thanked Dr Power and Mrs McClure for their reports.

6 The Committee members retiring by rotation under Article 3.4 were Mr John H. Anderson, Mr Brian Campbell, Mr Annesley Malley, Mr Ian B. McQuiston and Mrs Karen Latimer. Mr Simon Walker had also indicated that he wished to stand down from the Committee. No other nominations having been received, the President declared Mr Anderson, Mr Campbell, Mr Malley, Mr McQuiston and Mrs Latimer duly re-elected to the Committee

7 Having served as Honorary Treasurer for three years, Dr Murray Power relinquished his office in accordance with Article 3.9. Having been duly proposed and seconded, and there being no other nomination, he was declared re-elected.

8 On the proposal of the Honorary Treasurer, seconded by Mrs Karen Latimer, Messrs Crawford Sedgwick & Co were reappointed as the Society's Auditors.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

After the meeting, Mr Doug Elliott, Director of Architects Twenty Two Over Seven and proprietor of Batik Creative Design Store, spoke about the cultural, economic and personal background to his acquisition and restoration of the Meter House and his hopes for this and other urban regeneration initiatives.

Members were then addressed by the Minister for Social Development, Ms Margaret Ritchie MLA, who spoke about urban regeneration and its responsibility to the built heritage. She set out a philosophy that saw conservation of Northern Ireland's built heritage being considered in relation to its regeneration and revitalisation rather than as an opposing or competing interest and gave examples of the sustainable adaptation and reuse of historic buildings in a range of urban regeneration initiatives for which her department was responsible. She emphasised the importance of sustainability as a policy driver, noting that reusing our heritage reduced waste, saved energy, conserved natural resources, saved money, ensured that traditional skills were not lost, and promoted a shared future by demonstrating shared culture. Finally, she congratulated the Society on its achievements over the past 40 years.