

ST ALBANS CIVIC SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 7.30pm
Dagnall Street Baptist Church

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous AGM held on 15th October 2025
4. Trustees' report and accounts to 31st March 2026

- Chair's report
- Treasurer's report

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2026/27
6. Election of Officers and Committee members

Under the constitution adopted in 2025, one third of the officers and committee (up to four people) are elected each year for a three-year term. Nominations have closed.

The following are seeking re-election:

Robert Osborne (Secretary), Freda Chaloner (committee), Peter Newby (committee).

The other officers and committee members continue in post for another one or two years.

7. Any Other Business

There are no items under this heading notified within the requisite timeframe.

The AGM will be followed by a discussion on what does a parish council mean for St Albans.

The evening will include cheese and biscuits, a glass of wine and a chance to catch up with members and talk to the committee.

**St Albans Civic Society
Annual General Meeting**

Held on 15th October 2025 at Dagnall Street Baptist Church

1. WELCOME: The Chair, Mary Conneely, welcomed members to the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: These were noted as advised to the Secretary.
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2024 were approved.

4. TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

4.1. Chair's Report

Mary Conneely gave a verbal report on a challenging and productive year. She highlighted some of the main achievements including formation of a number of advisory groups; the work to improve the social media presence and website; articles in the Advertiser and St Albans Times and the campaign to create a parish council once the switch to unitary authorities took effect. In relation to this she reported that 1950 responses had been received to the Community Governance Review which were 90% in favour of a parish council so it was anticipated that Phase 2 would commence once the Council Strategy & Resources Committee met on 20 November to agree next steps.

The Society needed to have financial resilience, for example to fund the work involved in responding to the Community Governance Review. Subscriptions had been unchanged since 2004 with no inflation proofing or attempting to diversify sources of income. It was therefore proposed that from April 2026 the figures would rise to £20 and individual and £30 a household, with those under 25 having free membership. There was one rate for adults with no concessions. These new figures were slightly less than the 2004 equivalents based on inflation over that period

4.2. Clock Tower Report

Robert Osborne, as chair of the joint committee for the clock tower, drew attention to the new boards replacing the toposcope, the licence agreement with the Council which was awaiting a final copy for signing, and the visitor figures for the 2025 year which were 8292 including children and those on heritage open day when it was free.

4.3. Treasurer's Report

Roger Morton presented the accounts noting that copies had been made available by email and on the website. He noted that it was intended to offer direct debit payment as an option in future for subscriptions and more details would be provided,

5. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

The appointment of Zoe Tabraham was unanimously agreed with thanks to her for stepping in to take on the role for the 2024/25 year as the previous examiner was unable to continue for personal reasons.

6. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 6.1. Proposed changes to the procedures and practices were set out in a paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting along with a copy of the revised Constitution. The committee recommended adoption of the new Constitution. Robert Pankhurst summarised the key changes which were: a clearer and updated explanation of the Society's objectives; the power for the committee to determine subscription rates; changes to the committee and officer structure so the Chair was the lead spokesperson and the role of President was abolished; committee members to serve 3 year

terms with a maximum number of terms and a third of the committee being due for election each year.

6.2. A number of changes were suggested by members at the meeting:

- Item 3 on objectives should refer to “culture” as well as heritage and conservation
- Item 5 on the AGM should include “appointment of an independent examiner”
- Item 7 on committee should include a requirement for the committee to report back to members more frequently than just at an AGM.
- Item 8 on changes to constitution should state that “approval” was required from two thirds of those present.

6.3. The Chair recommended that items 3, 5 and 8 should be accepted as clarifications and incorporated into the proposed constitution. She commented that there was already a responsibility to report back to members without the need to explicitly state that in the constitution and noted that there had been a disappointing turnout at a meeting arranged specifically for that purpose. The Chair noted that any change in subscription charges would be advised to members at an AGM as a committee recommendation.

6.4. The revised constitution was approved.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

The election was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed of

Mary Conneely as Chair, Robert Osborne as Secretary, Roger Morton as Treasurer.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The election was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed of

Freda Chaloner, Fiona Couper, Jan Cropper, Fred Goulden, Peter Newby, Robert Pankhurst as committee members. The election of a new committee member, Edmund Jankowski, was unanimously agreed.

9. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

Each of the group chairs provided a brief update:

9.1. Planning: Freda Chaloner highlighted the work of the group and drew attention to the new page on the website, “Watchlist”, which would be updated as required

9.2. Visibility: Fiona Couper drew attention to the revitalised website, the new banners and leaflets and that a programme of talks was being arranged for 2026 along with the Awards event for projects completed by the end of 2025

9.3. Operations: Robert Pankhurst commented that as well as reviewing and revising the constitution, the group had also produced Terms of Reference for all the advisory groups.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Honorary Life Membership: the chair proposed that Tim Boatswain and Freda Chaloner should become honorary life members in recognition of their service to the committee and Society over many years. This was unanimously agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed and followed by social event.