



Minutes of the Lincolnshire Co-operative Half Yearly Members' Meeting held on Thursday 3 June 2021 at 6.30pm Virtually via an online platform

Present	President:	Mr S Parker (SP) in the Chair
	Vice President:	Mrs J Moate (JM)
	Directors:	Mr S Hughes (SH); Mrs J Romney (JR), Mr David Cowell (DC), Mr Richard Wills (RW), Mrs Claudia Nel (CN), Mrs Nicola Berry (NB), Mr Ian Haldenby (IH)
	Chief Executive:	Miss U Lidbetter (UL)
	Secretary:	Miss J Powell (JP)
		185 members in attendance 178 eligible to vote

The President welcomed members, explained the format of the meeting, the mechanism for raising questions and the voting process.

Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting which was held online on Thursday 10 December 2020 were signed as a correct record of the proceedings following receipt of 119 member votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

Half Yearly Directors' Report for the six months to 6 March 2021

The Half Yearly Directors' Report was received by the members following receipt of 114 member votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

CEO Report

The Chief Executive presented her report which included an update on the Society's business activities. She highlighted key initiatives relating to support for young people; tackling long-term unemployment; tackling food poverty and promoting the Society's environmental agenda. The Chief Executive also gave an update on two building and regeneration projects: the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park and the Cornhill Quarter in Lincoln.

The President adjourned the Half Yearly Members' Meeting and convened a Special Meeting.



Special Meeting

Changes to the Rules of the Society

Vice President Jane Moate presented the details of the proposed changes to the Rules of the Society.

Members resolved that the Rules of the Society be amended by the current rules being rescinded and replaced with the version available on the Society's website. 124 members voted in favour, 4 against and 5 abstained.

The President declared that the motion to amend the Society's rules had been carried.

Members resolved that the Secretary be authorised to submit the revised rules to the Financial Conduct Authority and agree any changes required by the Financial Conduct Authority to the submitted rules in order to achieve registration. 134 members voted in favour, 2 against and 1 abstained.

The President closed the Special Meeting and re-convened the Half Yearly Members' Meeting.

Changes to Directors' fees

The President provided a detailed explanation of the proposed changes.

Members resolved that the annual fees set out below be introduced with effect from the first working day after the rule changes were registered with the FCA:

- Director fee - £8,500 per annum
- Chair fee - £14,000 per annum
- President - 20% above the director fee per annum
- Vice President - 10% above the director fee per annum

Annual increases would be applied on 1 December each year in line with the Co-operative Retail Employees National Agreement or its successor.

117 members voted in favour, 9 against and 13 abstained.

The President declared the motion carried.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Member Questions

1. Why have you stopped selling a plastic bag for life?

SH explained that this was a strategic, research-based decision to encourage shoppers to buy a good quality reusable shopping bag and use it regularly as the Society believe that is the best way to reduce the environmental impact of carrier bags.

2. How are you tackling food poverty?

JR described the role of Community Coordinators and their strong relationships with food banks and community larders across the county. Every store has a food collection point and the Society will be supporting breakfast clubs as well as continuing to work with the Lincoln Food Partnership.

3. The new Gadsby's range is great but the new labels often don't scan easily making it difficult for your staff; can the barcodes be improved?

Craig Adamson, Food Retail Manager (CA) explained that he was not aware of this issue but would investigate it with Gadsby's.

4. Why close in store bakery when you had fabulous bread rolls French sticks and tiger sticks? As your replacements are very dry and unappealing.

CA explained that it was a strategic decision to close the in-store bakeries for a variety of reasons including environmental reasons such as reducing the number of food miles and energy used to provide those products. The test products with Gadsby's were fantastic and whilst there has been learning with regard to producing at scale, CA is confident that the stores now stock a premium product which everyone can enjoy

5. Can the Bracebridge Heath food store be refitted to modernise and freshen like other stores? It has so much potential with a vastly growing village/community.

CA pleased to inform that the Bracebridge Heath food store is on the refit plan. The Society is aware that it is a growing area and that there is a lot of housing planned for that area. Therefore, the Society is waiting to see how the area develops to inform what the refit needs to look like and if the store is in the right location when the area expands.

6. Can you please look at trying to relocate the Sutton on Trent foodstore. The car park has a narrow access which conflicts with the servicing bay. It is in a part of the village where on-street parking poses difficulties and as such there is no visibility when leaving the car park.

CA agreed that the Sutton on Trent store is a compromised site. It has been a very successful store but it is small and parking has always been difficult. The Society would be keen to move to a new site and are looking at it. However, acquiring space is a difficult process and local information is really useful. If any members have any suggestions for a new site, please do get in touch.

7. Are there any directors roles available?

SP informed members that there would be director elections later this year and all of the information and details are on the Society's website.

8. Are there any plans to bring in a good burger venue to the Cornhill - or to the city centre? Perhaps a Five Guys. They hit all the major cities as well as smaller cities like Bath.

Whilst UL agreed this was a good idea there are no suitable opportunities currently. There are a range of cafés, bars and restaurants in the Cornhill quarter, with several more coming shortly. It is a superb area to spend time and growing in popularity; there is something for everybody.

Close of Meeting

This meeting was SP's last in his role of President. SP paid special thanks to all colleagues and the Society's members for their support during the pandemic.