

Huntingdonshire Local History Society

56th Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 23rd May 2013
in Huntingdon Town Hall.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Lesley Akeroyd, Alan Butler, Caroline Clifford, Shirley Firth, Kate Hadley, Helen Giles, Angela White Horan, Christopher Leigh, Jennifer Liddell, Jenny Murby, Diane Raishbrook, Alan Richardson, Bridget Smith and Kath Ward.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the 2012 AGM were signed as correct by the Chairman, Philip Saunders.

3. Matters arising – not otherwise on the Agenda:

There were none.

4. Membership Secretary's Report:

Jean Burbidge welcomed all members of the Society. She promoted the payment of subscriptions by the use of Standing Order, with Gift Aid declarations if possible also. She asked members to let her have e-mail addresses as this greatly facilitated effective and cheap communication. Jean asked members to recommend the Society to potential new members, and suggested everybody look at the Society's new Facebook page (with 20 'friends' to date).

5. Summer Excursions:

David Cozens gave a report on the May weekend and summer excursions of 2012 (report attached). He outlined the Bristol trip, and then the visits to Peterborough Museum, Wrest Park, Emplins at Gamlingay, and the Roman archaeology dig at Water Newton.

On behalf of the Society, Philip thanked David for all his work in providing another enjoyable series of visits.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Val Halliday reported on the Income & Expenditure accounts for 2012, and David Smith explained the Society's investments. Jean Burbidge proposed, David Cozens seconded, that the Annual Accounts be adopted: this was agreed.

7. The Goodliff bequest:

Philip reported that the Society was without a formal administrator since Ken Sneath's retirement last year from this post. The committee had agreed to review the Goodliff Scheme and had set up a working party. The Scheme will continue, but with a year's break and will resume in 2014. It is hoped to attract more applicants for awards by improving publicity about the Scheme with a 're-launch' in the autumn this year. A one-day conference for 2014 is in the very early stages of planning, and ideas for this are welcome.

8. Editor's Report:

Philip reported that he had assembled sufficient material for a new edition of the Society's journal, and he hoped to be ready for publication later in the year.

9. Chairman's Address:

Philip thanked the committee for a successful year for the Society.

He felt that the winter lecture programme had been of a high standard, featuring good speakers – Honor Ridout and Liz Carter- speaking on local topics. (He felt it was important for the Society that it featured strongly on local topics.) Jane Brown, a member of the Society, had spoken about a 'local hero', Lancelot Brown, and Robin Standring and Graham Appleby on local archaeology. Nick Barratt, with a national reputation, was another high profile speaker. Philip said all these talks had been very well attended by members and visitors.

Philip echoed Jean's request for email addresses from members – to make it easier to inform and update everyone of the Society's news, along with other history and culture events in the county. He thanked Helen Giles for setting up the Facebook page, and declared himself a new user of this version of Social Media.

10. Election of Officers and other members of the committee:

Bridget Flanagan took the chair; Jean Burbidge proposed Philip Saunders as Chairman, seconded by David Cozens. With no other nominations, Philip was elected for 2013-14.

Philip resumed the chair.

The elections were;

Vice-chairman – David Cozens, proposed by Seonaid Dudley, seconded by David Hufford. With no other nominations, David was elected.

Secretary: the post is vacant at present, and no nominations were received.

Assistant Secretary, membership – Jean Burbidge, proposed by David Hufford, seconded by Val Halliday. With no other nominations, Jean was elected.

Assistant Secretary, Minutes, – Bridget Flanagan, proposed by Beryl Durant, seconded by David Viles. With no other nominations, Bridget was elected.

Shirley Firth had notified Philip that she would not seek re-election to the committee. Philip thanked her warmly for nearly 20 years' service in various committee roles.

Jennifer Liddell was proposed as a new committee member by the chairman, seconded by Val Halliday, and agreed *nem.con*.

All the other members of the committee were willing to stand for re-election for the coming year, and it was agreed to re-elect them *en bloc*.

11. Election of a person qualified to inspect the accounts:

Val Halliday proposed, Jean Burbidge seconded, that Kathy Ray be appointed to inspect the accounts. This was agreed.

12. AOB:

David Cozens reported that the Friends of the Cromwell Museum had an invitation by Mr and Mrs Lucas to Warboys Manor House on 7th June – and he hoped members of the Society might join them.

The deaths of two members of the Society in the last year – Peter Rowley of Morcott and New York (David and Philip had attended his funeral in Oakham) and Robin Stanes of Devon (formerly of Godmanchester) was noted with sadness.

The business of the AGM was concluded, and was followed by a presentation of the summer excursions. Members then enjoyed light refreshments and a quiz on local topics.