

Huntingdonshire Local History Society

57th Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 22nd May 2014 in the Town Hall, Huntingdon

1. Apologies for Absence:

Lesley Akeroyd, Tony Barraclough, Caroline Clifford, Mary Eiloart, Gill Farrar, Michael Farrar, Shirley Firth, Richard Halliday, Val Halliday, Elspeth Gibbon, Helen Giles, Jennifer Liddell, Jenny Murby, Diane Raishbrook, Vivienne Schorer-Nixon, David Smith, Rosemary Smith, Christopher Vane-Percy, Sue Young.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the 2013 AGM were signed as correct by the Chairman, Philip Saunders.

3. Matters arising – not otherwise on the Agenda:

Philip Saunders said that the earliest date for a society conference was now 2015.

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Jean Burbidge reported that an average of 60 members had attended the monthly talks throughout the year. She continued to gather email addresses from both members and visitors. 27 members were linked with the Facebook page at the beginning of the year, this had now grown to 75 and would no doubt increase further. Jean thanked Rosemary and David Smith for organising refreshments after the monthly meetings; these had proved popular with members and improved sociability within the Society. Jean also thanked everyone for their warm support and help during her husband's illness.

Philip Saunders noted the death of two members; Richard Garnett and John Peacock.

5. Excursions Report

David Cozens gave his report on the summer excursions and the May Weekend Away – report attached. He has decided that the 2014 Weekend trip to Winchester is the last one that he will organise, and hopes someone else will take over. He suggested that they might start with just one night away.

Philip Saunders thanked David for all his work on the excursions and Weekend Trips – which have been enjoyed by many members over the years.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman gave the Treasurer's report – as attached. He explained that the old 'Publications Account' had now been amalgamated into the main account.

Bridget Smith asked if there was a separate account for the Goodliff monies. Philip explained that the Goodliff bequest was totally unconditional and so the monies are not kept in a separate fund. However the Society has broadly continued to finance its core activities from

subscriptions and to use the investments (in essence the Goodliff monies) and the income therefrom for developmental costs and the Goodliff Awards. Due to the fall in income from interest, the committee had agreed a few years' ago that some capital could be used for the Awards, to a maximum of £7500 in the current year. Bridget Smith suggested that this decision should be made more public. John Gibbon asked that the decision to use some capital, in addition to interest income, for the Goodliff Awards, be minuted. Bridget Smith proposed the adoption of the accounts, Beryl Durant seconded, and it was unanimously agreed.

7. The Goodliff Bequest

In David Smith's absence, Philip Saunders gave the report – as attached. The Society would have liked to see more applications from smaller groups and individual researchers. Publicity for the scheme had been fairly extensive – to all schools, libraries and local history groups etc. He suggested that more 'word-of mouth' publicity from within the Society might be useful. All the applicants have now been notified about their awards, and it is hoped that the Society's President will be able to present the Awards at an autumn meeting. Philip thanked David Smith for his work as Administrator, and regretted that he is now standing down from this role.

8. Editor's Report

Philip was happy to report on the publication of *Records of Huntingdonshire* in January 2014. He is now working on the next edition, with two possible articles already received and others in the pipeline.

9. The Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked all the Officers for their work for the Society throughout the year. He paid tribute to Val Halliday as Treasurer for the first part of the year under review, and also to Jean Burbidge who had continued in her role during especially difficult times of her husband's illness.

Bridget Flanagan, on behalf of the committee and the general membership, thanked Philip for his dedication and for keeping the Society active and in good spirit.

Bridget Smith thanked Philip for the email circulars notifying members of meetings, and asked if future monthly meetings could be held in the Town Hall rather than the Methodist Church. Philip said the committee will consider this matter.

10. Election of Officers

Bridget Flanagan took the Chair. She proposed and Jean Burbidge seconded Philip Saunders as Chairman. There were no other nominations, and Philip was elected chairman for 2014-15. Philip resumed the Chair. He asked if all the Officers were willing to serve for 2014-15, and with their agreement proposed that they be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed. He asked if there was any one willing to fill the vacancy of Secretary; there were no nominations. Philip proposed that the Ordinary members of the committee be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed. He thanked Linda Vincent who had retired from the committee for her work for the Society.

11. Election of a person qualified to inspect the Accounts

Kathy Ray had been nominated by the committee to inspect the accounts. Bridget Smith proposed and Jean Burbidge seconded that this nomination be approved. This was agreed.

12. Any Other Business

Lesley Akeroyd had given the Chairman a duplicate set of photographs Betty Britton had taken of a visit to Moat House in 2003. The society had no use for them and he would make them available anyone who wanted them.

Bridget Smith noted the recent reports in the press about appalling storage conditions in the County Archives at Shire Hall. Philip noted that the Society was represented by Jennifer Liddell on the County Advisory Group for Archives & Local Studies through which it was kept informed of developments. He regretted the latest failure for a scheme in partnership with Cambridge University as part of the North-west Cambridge development. Other options for the future of the Cambridgeshire Archives are still being explored.

The business of the AGM concluded and was followed by a presentation of the summer excursions.

Members then enjoyed light refreshments and a quiz on local topics organised by Alan Butler and Philip Saunders.