

Huntingdonshire Local History Society

62nd Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th May 2019

In the Town Hall, Huntingdon

1. Apologies for absence. Ruth Bush, Charles Beresford, Richard Cook, Pat Jones, Marie-Anne and Christopher Sykes, Liz Davies, Beth Davis, Jan and Ian Dobson, Lesley Akeroyd, Caroline Clifford and Ann Wise, Acting Director of Norris Museum.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were signed as correct by the Chairman, Philip Saunders.

3. Matters Arising

Item 9: The Huntingdonshire History Festival was very successful.

Item 9: The Huntingdon Town Council is still working on their Heritage Centre proposal, with view to possible HLF application.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report for 2018. The Society is in a sound financial position. Kathy Ray, the independent inspector of the society's accounts, having checked the accounts, has certified them as an accurate representation of our financial affairs.

Our investments have shown a small decrease in value due to market forces.

Membership at the year's end was 182. This shows an increase of 12 on last year's figure but does not take into account the 13 people who had died or moved away from the area.

Accepting the Report, those present thanked the treasurer for his report.

5. Goodliff Bequests 2018

Having circulated a statement of the grants awarded, KH gave a verbal report and expressed the hope that members would encourage others to make applications this year. The chairman thanked her, and her small committee, for their dedication to this very important aspect of the Society's objectives.

6. Excursions Report

David Cozens reported on the visits that had been undertaken and thanked David Smith for doing the administrative and financial side of organising our events programme.

7. Editor's Report

Our editor reported that three items were in preparation for the next edition; these may be supplemented by 2 smaller items which are also in preparation.

8. Presidential change

The Chairman explained that at his last lecture our President, Simon Thurley had said that we should be looking to find a successor. We appreciate the time he has given us; arrangements will be made to formally thank him later in the year. Kate Hadley had provided an introduction to Dr. David Starkey, CBE, MA, PhD., who had accepted an invitation to succeed Simon. The committee sought the agreement of members to this appointment - it was agreed unanimously.

As out-going president, Simon Thurley had already agreed to give his annual lecture this year during the Huntingdonshire History Festival, for which we are grateful. This will take place in the town hall but booking will be essential in view of the limited capacity of the room.

9. Election of officers

Before proceeding with this item, David Smith on behalf of The Society thanked our chairman, Philip Saunders, for all that he does for us and for the community we seek to serve.

The chairman reported that all committee members were willing to stand for a further year. Stuart Orme proposed that they be elected en bloc, this was seconded by Rachel Thurley, and approved unanimously by the members. The chairman invited further nominations but none were forthcoming.

David Cozens asked whether the Ramsey Rural Museum was represented on the committee. Kate Hadley remarked that representatives often fail to attend. The chairman said that as the curators of Norris Museum and St Neots Museums serve on the committee as representative members and the curator of the Cromwell Museum is an elected member he felt links to the museum community were adequate. John Holland reported that Ramsey Rural Museum's status had changed and it was now an accredited museum. Kate Hadley proposed that Ramsey Rural Museum be invited to send a representative, this was seconded by John Holland and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

10. Election of person qualified to inspect the accounts.

Kathy Ray has indicated a willingness to continue doing this so Jennifer Liddell proposed, and Valerie Halliday seconded, that she be elected. Thanks were expressed for her dedication to this task.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 David Cozens expressed the wish that alternative storage be arranged for our display boards currently stored in his garage.

11.2 Rosemary Smith reported on the success of the recent visit to Birmingham. The next weekend away would be to West Kent and she hoped it would be well supported.

11.3. The Huntingdonshire Archives will reopen on 4th June. At 2.00 pm there will be a presentation on the new book, *The Singing Milkmaids*, with relevant exhibits from the archives; refreshments will be served. David Cozens reminded members that it was thanks to action by our Society that the Archives remained open, one day per month, during the temporary redeployment of staff preparing Cambridgeshire Archives for transfer to Ely.

11.4 Keith Sneath wished to draw members attention to two recent books he had published on the history of the county. The first, entitled *The Singing Milkmaids*, had already been mentioned. He will be giving a talk on his latest book, *A History of Godmanchester parish church* on 22nd June. Proceeds from sales of the book on that date will be donated to the church. He hoped members would support this fund-raising project because this is such an important building.

11.5 Kate Hadley reported that the Porch Museum would be moving to St Mary's parish church shortly. To support this she will be giving a talk on 'The Romans in Godmanchester' (Tickets £10 in aid of the Porch Museum)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm after which our Chairman gave an illustrated talk entitled 'From Record Type to Digital Byte: 200 years of publishing historical records of Huntingdonshire'. This was followed by light refreshments organised by David and Rosemary Smith, to whom we offered thanks.