

Mere Historical Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 in the Grove Building

Present: Committee Members: Christine Allberry, Caroline Cook, Gerald Cook, Diane Ellis, Tony Grinyer, Peter Lewis (PL) (Chairman), Jenny Wilding; plus approximately 45 members

1 Apologies: Peter Platt-Higgins; Sue Birch;

2 Minutes of the AGM of 4th March 2014 had been circulated in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet. These were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman. Proposer June Jory; Seconder David Longbourne;

3 Matters Arising: It was pointed out for future reference that the spelling of Peter Knapp's name was incorrect in the 2014 Minutes with the omission of the letter 'K'.

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Chairman's Report:

- The Chairman, Peter Lewis, referred the meeting to the Chairman's Report circulated in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet. He publicly acknowledged the hard work of all members of the Committee and thanked them.
- He expressed the view that the speakers this year have been excellent and said that he was disappointed by the low attendances at some of the talks.
- He congratulated the organisers of the Morning Talks, Evening Lectures and Visits. He particularly thanked Chris Allberry and Tony Grinyer who are both stepping down from their respective roles organising the programme of Evening Lectures and Morning Talks.

4.2 Financial Report:

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet. Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Madeleine Morris, seconded by Ros Castro and approved by the meeting.

4.3 Archivist's Report: The Chairman referred to the Report which had been circulated in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet. He thanked Jenny Wilding for her hard work on the Archive on behalf of Mere Historical Society and the Museum. He appealed for help needed with the ongoing work on the Archive.

5 Constitution and Rules: The Chairman stated that the Constitution and Rules had been unchanged for some time and that these had been amended to reflect the practical realities of the functioning of the Society. He asked the meeting to consider the proposed amended version printed and circulated in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet for formal ratification at the 2016 AGM. In the meantime, comments and suggestions may be made to any member of the Committee.

6 Election of Committee: No new nominations had been received. The Chairman introduced the current Committee Members to the meeting as listed in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet and asked for them to be re-elected. This was agreed. Proposer Steve Hoffman; Seconder Rose Cox.

7 Open Forum:

The Vice-Chairman, Tony Grinyer, explained that this part of the meeting was for members to raise any points for discussion.

7.1 Appeal for Committee Members: Tony appealed for volunteers to contact the Committee Members if they would like to help and said that the Committee was looking for new members to co-opt. He re-stated that the Society needed someone to organise the Morning Talks as he is giving up this role with effect from 2016.

7.2 Notice of Increased Subscription: On behalf of the Committee Tony gave notice of the proposal to increase the subscription from £7.50 to £10.00 with effect in 2016. He said that the subscription had not increased for some years and that the Society would like to be able to pay more for speakers to help raise its profile, as well as support the funding of the Archive work.

7.3 Publicity: Suggestions from the floor were offered to help publicise the Society's activities. These included promoting the events in local villages; using the free events listing in publications such as the Blackmore Vale Magazine and Valley News; using local radio including Radio Wiltshire and The Breeze in Shaftesbury; appointing a Publicity Officer to manage this.

7.4 Archive Working Party: Jenny Wilding explained that the aim was for the Archive and Catalogue to be accessible online. She is keen to use it to create new areas of knowledge, perhaps producing papers and talks on local history. To this end she proposes to establish a small working party for the Archive and requested volunteers to join her.

7.5 Talks and Visits: These are organised for 2015 and 2016. Booking forms for visits are in the AGM NewsReview 2015 booklet. A proposal for a visit to Bletchley Park in 2016 was met with interest with the possibility of a new member, Peter Landymore, helping to arrange a tour.

7.6 Next Morning Talk: reminder for 17 March 2015

7.7 New Society Leaflet: A leaflet promoting the Society and listing the activities has been placed in the Library in Mere and is available for display elsewhere.

7.8 Suggestions Book: A book for members to write comments and suggestions will now be available to use at meetings.

8 AOB: None

Signed as a true record: