

Mere Historical Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 in the Grove Building

Present: Chairman (Peter Lewis), Committee Members: Caroline Cook, Gerry Cook, Diane Ellis, Peter Landymore, Julia Mottershaw, Peter Platt-Higgins (Treasurer), plus approximately 45 members

1 Apologies: Michael Hannon and Vernon Phillips

2 Minutes of the AGM of 4th April 2017 had been circulated in the Newsletter of July 2017 and published on the Mere Historical Society website. These were unanimously approved by those present for signature by the Chairman. Proposer: Steve Hoffman; Seconder: Joan Sutton.

3 Matters Arising: None

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Chairman's Report

- The Chairman reported that it had been a good year with generally enjoyable and high quality talks and much to be learnt from their content. He observed that the morning talks were proving popular and were well attended. He said that it was an important objective of the Society to enable members to share their interests and to stimulate research and that there had been excellent speakers from the membership.
- The Chairman thanked Caroline Cook for her work in researching and organising such an interesting and enjoyable programme of Summer Visits.
- The Chairman reported that problems with the projector had been resolved thanks to an anonymous donation of a new projector for which the Society is very grateful.
- The Committee currently consists of 7 members but would welcome an additional member. The Chairman asked for anyone interested in joining or assisting the Committee to contact him or any other Committee member. The role of Society Archivist is still vacant and anyone interested in helping with this valuable work should contact him or Jenny Wilding who manages the Mere Archive and currently still supports the Society informally.
- The Society's website is managed by Steve Hoffman and the Chairman thanked him for his work in keeping this up-to-date.
- The Chairman reported that the programme of talks for Autumn 2018 is now confirmed and is available as a flyer and on the Society website <http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk/>. He said that the programme for Winter/Spring 2019 was close to being finalised and details would be available soon. The Society is always pleased to receive offers of help in writing a review of any of the forthcoming talks. Anyone interested in contributing in this way should contact a member of the Committee.
- The Chairman concluded by thanking the Treasurer, Peter Platt-Higgins, who is standing down from his role. He thanked Peter warmly for his considerable support both to him personally and to the Society over a period of 8 years. His meticulous work is much appreciated.

4.2 Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts for 2017 had been circulated to the Committee and are available upon request. (Copy attached in Appendix A and B)
- The Treasurer reported that the Society is in good financial health and is solvent. *(Secretary's post-meeting note: The Society's bank balance for the year increased by some £633 which compares with an increase in the bank balance of some £70 in 2016. There are nearly £3400 of*

uncommitted funds. The computerisation of the content of the Society archive is now complete, funded over the years through grants, donations and Society reserves.)

- In his report the Treasurer thanked Peter Dethick for checking and certifying the accounts.

5 Election of Committee: One nomination had been received for Derek Fisher to replace Peter Platt-Higgins as Treasurer. No other new nominations had been received. The remaining current Committee members and Derek Fisher introduced themselves to the meeting and the Chairman reported that they had all agreed to stand again for election.

- The Chairman asked for the current members to be re-elected and this was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Peter Platt-Higgins; Seconder: George Jeans.
- The Chairman asked for Derek Fisher to be elected as Treasurer and this was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Peter Landymore; Seconder: Wendy Hiscock.

6 AOB:

6.1 Caroline Cook informed the meeting that the first Visit to Oxford was popular with just one space remaining on a 48 seater coach. Other Visits are booking fast.

6.2 Caroline Cook informed the meeting that she would send emails to members only regarding essential information as and when necessary. If members would like to be sent regular email reminders of Society events they should let her know.

6.3 Thanks were expressed by Joan Sutton for the visit to Dent's Glove Factory. She reported that it had been very well-organised and enjoyable.

6.4 Adrienne Howell thanked the Society on behalf of the Mere District Linkscheme for participating in the Mere Literary Festival. She said that it helps to make it more of a Community event.

6.5 The Committee would welcome offers to contribute to the future Programme of morning talks or suggestions for speakers.

There was no further business.

Signed as a true record:

Date:

Appendix A:

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report on the Accounts for January to December 2017, presented at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3rd April 2018.

Mister Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year January to December 2017, and hope that you all have a copy to which you can refer.

Overall the accounts show an increase in our bank balance for the year of some £633. This compares with an increase in our bank balance of some £70 in 2016. The computerisation of the content of the Society archive is now complete. Although the Society do not have a specific allowance for this work, over the years we have received grants and donations towards this work and the balance has, with the Committee's approval, been funded from our reserves. As a society your committee believe that the establishment and maintenance of the archive to be a key piece of work that the Society should support.

We remain solvent with nearly £3400 in uncommitted funds.

Membership income, as a consequence of the agreed increase in subscriptions, increased in 2017 to £1244. It is the membership fees which cover the Society's basic overhead costs represented by hall rental, the costs of talks, the production and distribution of the newsletters, donations and administration. Currently these costs are some £533 less than our membership income. The committee has worked hard to reduce our overhead costs – successfully.

If our membership could be increased this would improve the Society's financial situation so please consider persuading your friends to join.

Interest on our deposit account was £1.89.

The Summer Visits achieved a surplus of £187 on a turnover of some £5000 (which again is a VERY neat balancing act by the organisers.)

We made donations in the year to support Mere Matters and in support of the Flower Festival at St Michaels Church.

Should you wish to pay membership fees or any other sums to the Society using internet banking or by standing order the details of our account are:

Account name: Mere Historical Society

Sort Code: 30-93-45

Account Number: 01735722

I would like to thank Peter Dethick for certifying these accounts and keeping me honest!

P.M Platt-Higgins

(Hon Treasurer)

Appendix B:

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINAL ACCOUNTS 2017

ACTIVITY	CREDIT	DEBIT	GAIN	LOSS
MEMBERSHIP <i>2016 Figures</i>	1244.00 <i>(1225.00)</i>	146.45 <i>(328.20)</i>	1097.55 <i>(896.80)</i>	
TALKS <i>2016 Figures</i>	233.50 <i>(23.90)</i>	255.00 <i>(307.50)</i>		21.50 <i>(283.60)</i>
NEWSLETTER <i>2016 Figures</i>		422.00 <i>(426.20)</i>		422.00 <i>(426.60)</i>
DONATIONS <i>2016 Figures</i>	2.00 <i>(16.50)</i>	72.40 <i>(30.00)</i>		70.40 <i>(13.50)</i>
ADMINISTRATION <i>2016 Figures</i>		50.58 <i>(114.96)</i>		50.58 <i>(114.96)</i>
Sub Total <i>2016 Figures</i>	1479.50 <i>(1265.40)</i>	946.43 <i>(1206.35)</i>	533.07 <i>(58.54)</i>	
VISITS <i>2016 Figures</i>	2624 <i>(2528.60)</i>	2436.80 <i>(2479.60)</i>	187.20 <i>(49.00)</i>	
ARCHIVE <i>2016 Figures</i>		89.45 <i>(45.00)</i>		89.45 <i>(45.00)</i>
INTEREST <i>2016 Figures</i>	1.89 <i>(7.48)</i>		1.89 <i>(7.48)</i>	
TOTAL <i>2016 Figures</i>	4105.39 <i>(4135.90)</i>	3472.68 <i>(3731.46)</i>	632.71 <i>(70.02)</i>	

BALANCES	AT 31.12.16	AT 31.12.17
PETTY CASH	21.20	21.20
CURRENT A/C	815.19	1446.01
DEPOSIT A/C	1911.15	1913.04
TOTAL	2747.54	3380.25

Increase in Society assets

£ 632.71
(See Treasurers report)

Signed:

P M Platt-Higgins
Hon. Treasurer

P Dethick
Checker