

Mere Historical Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 in the Grove Building

Present: Retiring Chairman (Peter Lewis), Committee Members: Caroline Cook, Acting Chairman (Gerry Cook), Diane Ellis, Peter Landymore, Julia Mottershaw, Hamish Bell, plus approximately 80 members

1 Apologies: Derek Fisher (Treasurer), Wendy Mitchell-Turner

2 Minutes of the AGM of 3rd April 2018 had been published on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk. These were unanimously approved by those present for signature by the Acting Chairman. Proposer: Joan Sutton; Seconder: Roger Laidler.

3 Matters Arising: None

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Acting Chairman's Report (Gerry Cook):

- The Acting Chairman welcomed the attendance by Peter Lewis, Chairman, who has decided to retire from the Committee following his accident in 2018. Gerry invited the members to join the Committee in thanking Peter for his guidance in the last 6 years and in wishing him the best for a continuing recovery. He said that he was pleased to report that Peter would continue to act as a valued member of the society whose contributions to the Committee would be welcomed and much appreciated. He said that as Acting Chair he had found the transition taking over the role of Chairman fairly smooth.
- Gerry welcomed Hamish Bell as a newly co-opted member of the Committee. He said that he was pleased that Hamish has agreed to arrange the Talks Programme for 2020. A new Talks organiser will be needed for beyond this and the Committee would like to hear from anyone interested in taking over this role in due course. Hamish and other members of the Committee will welcome offers to contribute to the future Programme of talks or suggestions for speakers.
- Gerry reported that the Society had enjoyed a successful year with membership increasing to 130 and a good range of enjoyable and interesting talks and visits. He said that the finances are sound and that income broadly covers the cost of the talks and the newsletters. The visits had proved to be more successful and popular than usual with ticket sales of 162 compared to 118 in 2017. This had helped the finances considerably.
- Gerry expressed his thanks to all those who contribute to the Society in many different ways including the Committee, Steve Hoffman, the website manager, those who help to collect subscriptions, serve refreshments, put out chairs and set up equipment. In particular he wished to thank the members for their support.
- Gerry pointed out that the Society celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022 and would welcome ideas of how to mark this.
- Gerry concluded by saying that the Society is in good health and members can look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Derek Fisher):

- The Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts for 2018 had been circulated to the Committee and copies are available upon request. A copy may be found on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk.

- In the absence of the Treasurer, the Acting Chairman read the Treasurer's report to the members present. The finances are sound with reserves increasing by just over £700 on the 2017 closing figure.
- In his report the Treasurer thanked Peter Dethick for checking and agreeing the accounts.
- The Accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposer: Peter Platt-Higgins; Seconder: Tony Morgan-Nash.

5 Election of Committee: No new nominations had been received. The current Committee members introduced themselves to the meeting and the Acting Chairman reported that they had all agreed to stand again for election. The Acting Chairman asked for the current members to be re-elected and this was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Adrienne Howell; Seconder: George Jeans.

Following the retirement of Peter Lewis, the Committee will appoint a new Chair at their next Committee meeting.

6 AOB:

6.1 Peter Lewis thanked everyone for their support and words of thanks. He said he would miss being involved as Chairman but looked forward to enjoying being simply a member.

6.2 Caroline Cook informed the meeting that the deadline for the first Visit to Kew is 30 April not 5 May and that it is half-full and booking fast. The trip to Wells is also looking popular. She wished to sound out interest for a possible visit to the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. About 12-15 people expressed interest in a show of hands. There was a lot of interest shown in a Mere Historical guided walk, possibly in August.

6.3 Caroline Cook reminded the meeting that if members would like to be sent regular email reminders of Society events they must let her know.

6.4 Jenny Wilding, former Archivist of Mere Historical Society, reported that she had received a vast number of documents recently for processing and storage. She said that she would apply to the Mere Lecture Hall Trust for a grant to cover the cost of this with the approval given by the Society. She would also like to hear from anyone interested in helping to run the Mere Historical Society Archive.

6.5 The Secretary reminded members that the programme of talks for 2019 is available as a flyer to view or download on the Society website www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk.

There was no further business.

Signed as a true record:

Date: