

Mere Historical Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 5th April 2022 in the Grove Building

Present: Chair (Peter Landymore), Committee Members: David Bett, Simon Edkins, Diane Ellis, Derek Fisher, Julia Mottershaw, Hamish Bell, plus approximately 52 members

1 Apologies: None

2 Minutes of the AGM of 2nd April 2019 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 Chair. Proposer: Wendy Mitchell-Turner; Seconder: Caroline Cook.

3 Matters Arising: The Accounts for the Years ending 2019 and 2020 have been published on the Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk but had not been formally approved due to suspension of Society activity through the Covid-19 pandemic. These accounts were unanimously approved by those present.

For Year ending 2019 Accounts: Proposer: Monique Turnbull; Seconder: David Bett

For Year ending 2020 Accounts: Proposer: David Bett; Seconder: Hamish Bell.

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Chair's Report (Peter Landymore):

The Chair welcomed the members and said that his full report would be posted on the Society's website and copies are available on request. He went on to give an outline of the key points as follows:

- Despite the effects of the covid-19 epidemic over the last two years, the Society had survived and would be reaching its 50th year in 2022. It had enjoyed a full programme of high quality Autumn and Spring talks. The Chair particularly thanked David Bett for his work as Programme Organiser, and Derek Fisher who had enabled the Grove Building to re-open its doors after the enforced closure due to the pandemic.
- The Chair gave special thanks to his predecessor Gerry Cook, who had sadly passed away. Gerry had been anxious to ensure that the Society should be handed over in as good a shape as possible after its dormancy during the pandemic. Its healthy finances had enabled an extension of membership through to the end of March 2022.
- The Chair offered his warm thanks and appreciation to Caroline Cook, who had resigned as Visits Organiser. He praised her work saying that in her role she was virtually irreplaceable. He said that the Society wished to resume its Visits Programme as a priority and appealed for volunteers to come forward to take on this role.
- The Chair welcomed two new members co-opted to the Committee: Hamish Bell who is responsible for the Talks reports and Simon Edkins who is Membership Secretary.
- The meeting was informed that the Newsletter would no longer be printed for distribution. However, reports of talks would be posted on the website as soon after the talk as possible and those from the recent programme would be added shortly.
- The Chair reflected on the Society's evolution from a society originally focused on an enthusiasm for local history to one offering a broader range of topics. In the past, members with a particular interest have contributed to the programme and this is seen as a real strength to be fostered. Members are encouraged to contact David Bett or any other Committee Member if they would like to contribute or have an idea for a talk.

- The Chair concluded by thanking the Members for their continued support of the Society.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Derek Fisher):

- The Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts for the Year ending 2021 had been circulated to the Committee and copies are available upon request. A copy will be posted on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk. Thanks to Judy Bickerstaff for checking the Accounts.
- The Treasurer said that there had been little activity during much of the last two difficult years but the Society is financially healthy with reserves standing at just over £5000. The Treasurer welcomed suggestions on how some of this money might be spent by the Society.
- The Accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposer: Adrienne Howell; Seconder: Jane Thomson.

5 Election of Committee: No new nominations had been received. The current Committee members introduced themselves to the meeting and the Chair asked for the current members to be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Adrienne Howell; Seconder: Caroline Cook.

6 AOB:

6.1 The Chair apologised for the break from tradition of offering a drink at the AGM and said that he hoped the Society would be able to resume this next year.

6.2 The members were reminded that if they do not wish to be sent email reminders of Society events they must let the Membership Secretary know.

There was no further business.

Signed as a true record:

Date: