#

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**held on Saturday 15 April 2023**

**at the Dorman Museum**

Members Present

*Committee Members*:

Martin Peagam Hon. Secretary (in the chair)

Lee Firth Membership Secretary

John Little Bulletin Editor

Matt Falcus Programme Secretary

Ian Stubbs Publications Officer

Stephanie Green Distribution Secretary

Stewart Ramsdale

Val Harrison

*Ordinary Members other than Committee Members:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Beryl Turner | Elizabeth Harwood |
| Joyce Stephenson | Steve Harwood |
| Jeremy Kendall | Mary Moralee |
| Sheila Kendall | Elizabeth Moralee |
| David Firth | Niall Taylor |
| Paul A Boden | John Wheeler |
| Anne Peacock | Gisela Wheeler |
| Marian Roberts | Peter Appleton |
| Graham Roberts |  |
|  |  |

As there were more than 15 Members present, the meeting was declared quorate.

#### Apologies for Absence

#### Apologies for absence were received from: Geoff Braddy, Linda Polley, Julie Tweedy, Jenny Braddy, Larry Bruce and Alison Brown.

In the absence of Geoff Braddy (Chairman) and Linda Polley (Vice-Chairman), and with the consent of those Members present, Martin Peagam chaired the meeting.

#### Chairman’s Welcome

The Chairman of the meeting welcomed everyone to the Society's A.G.M. for 2023, noting that it was a delight to hold an in-person AGM, after three years in which the AGM had been held via Zoom.

Minutes of the last AGM

**The Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 14 May 2022 were received and approved as a true record,** subject to an amendment to say ‘The meeting received and approved a proposal for the appointment of Ian Saul as auditor for both financial and membership records’.

# Matters Arising

None

Secretary’s Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Secretary, Martin Peagam, presented a report on the activities of the Society over the previous year, noting that a written report had been made available to all members in advance of the meeting, and highlighted some key issues:

The year ending 31 December 2022 saw the Society coping with the recovery from COVID-19 Lockdown restrictions.

The activities of the Society are coordinated by the Members of the Management Committee, ably led by our Chairman, Geoff Braddy. The Committee has met four times this year, via Zoom, planning and overseeing the Society’s activities.

Since March meetings have been chaired by our Vice-Chairman, Linda Polley, allowing Geoff to focus on the care needs of Jenny Braddy following illness. However, thanks to meetings being held using Zoom, both Geoff and Jenny had participated in meetings, and made valuable contributions to the discussions.

Geoff has continued to provide leadership and advice, but the contribution of Linda cannot be under-estimated.

Members of the Committee have individually contributed effectively organising events, producing publications, responding to enquiries, suggesting new activities, etc

However, all Members of the Committee have also come together to collectively review escalating costs and to find solutions to control those costs whilst continuing to deliver the services that Members expect. Particular thanks were due to Julie Tweedy, John Little, Lee Firth, Val Harrison, and Stephanie Green for their work in this respect.

Whilst Committee meetings continued to take place via Zoom, the programme of events included three in-person meetings – at Globe Theatre and at the Dorman Museum - as well as on-line ones, embracing nine different topics, and also three tours, of the Globe Theatre in Stockton, of Kirkleatham Museum in Redcar, and of the Rail Heritage quarter in Darlington.

Matt Falcus, in his fourth year as Programme Secretary, has proved more than capable of filling the shoes of his predecessor.

Members will be aware that there was no Frank Elgee Memorial Lecture in either 2020 or 2021. Keen to ensure that this important event did not disappear entirely, the Secretary engaged with all the relevant societies - - Teesside Archaeological Society, Cleveland Naturalists Field Club, and Cleveland Industrial Archaeological Society – to secure a commitment to reviving the talks over the next few years. On Saturday 26 November 2022 -at the Dorman Museum there was a talk hosted by CIAS, and plans are in place for TAS to provide the lecture in 2023: on Saturday 25 November 2023 when David Mason will speak on ‘The Battle of Chester: Fact or Fiction?’

Recognising the need to keep Members involved and interested, particularly those affected by social isolation, the Society has paid particular attention to its web site and Facebook page, ensuring both are regularly updated. Particular thanks are due to Ian Stubbs for providing regular updates of the Society page.

The Scroll, the Newsletter and Bulletin continue to be essential to the Society and its Members.

At the last AGM, John Little took over the role of Bulletin Editor from Val Harrison and had produced an excellent Bulletin before the year end.

That Society publications drop through letter-boxes is due to the excellent work of our Distribution Secretary, Stephanie Green.

Val Harrison and Stewart Ramsdale are addressing how to digitise the wealth of material available in past Bulletin articles so it can be made available through the web site and in response to enquiries,

As of 31 December 2022, the Society had 222 Members including 20 institutions.

Lee Firth, our Membership Secretary, in her twenty-second year in the role, has continued to do a great job liaising with members and encouraging their continued membership.

In her role as Treasurer, Julie Tweedy had another busy year. Following the review of Membership Fees last year, which saw a new structure of fees approved at the last AGM, it became necessary to undertake another review of the financial position in view of significant, increases in printing and postage costs, something which was highlighted at the last AGM.

The financial position of the Society can be seen in the audited accounts for the year, which had been distributed to Members.

That the Society remains in a stable financial position is thanks to the work of the Treasurer, and the cooperation of all Committee members.

We are grateful to Ian Saul for auditing the Society accounts and membership records.

In summary, the Secretary reported that whilst we are still feeling the impact of the lockdown years of 2020 and 2021, during the past year the Society is starting to show signs of a return to ‘normality’, albeit one in which we make greater use of Zoom, Facebook, and the internet to communicate with members and deliver services, and one in which we are acutely conscious of the impact of cost-of-living pressures on the need to manage services efficiently if we are to remain financially stable

Nevertheless, we are optimistic that the commitment of Committee members and the loyalty of Society Members will mean that the Society will continue to be an important part of the local history of Cleveland and Teesside.

**There being no questions, the Secretary’s Report was accepted by those present at the meeting.**

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Treasurer, Julie Tweedy, although not present had circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting, the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Chairman noted that these showed that at year-end assets totalled £17,291.88, comprising £16.99 Cash In Hand, £5,130.89 balance in Current Account, and £12,143.80 balance in Savings Accounts, and there was an excess of expenditure over income of £460.15. Whilst income from Membership Fees had increased by over £500 compared to the previous year (from £2,513.28 to £3,077.50), postage costs remain high at £1,081.43 and there has been a dramatic increase in printing costs, from £974.98 the previous year to £2,086.90 this year.

Faced by escalating costs, the Committee considered whether it would be necessary to revise Membership fees again to provide more income or to reduce the number of issues of the bulletin and the newsletter produced in order to reduce costs. It concluded that with some careful and vigilant management of costs it would be possible to maintain the current commitment to producing and distributing the bulletins and newsletters which are seen as an essential element of the Society’s services to members.

That the Society remains in a stable financial position is thanks to the work of the Treasurer, and the cooperation of all Committee members. The Committee will continue to monitor and manage costs closely.

**The Financial Statements as presented were received and approved as a true record.**

Election of Officers

The meeting received and considered nominations for Officers to serve the Society for one year from the date of the AGM.

The business of the meeting was conducted by the Secretary, Martin Peagam, with the consent of those present.

**The following Members were duly elected as Officers:**

Chairman - Geoff Braddy

Vice-Chairman - Linda Polley

Hon Secretary – Martin Peagam

Hon. Treasurer – Julie Tweedy

Editor –John Little

Programme Secretary – Matt Falcus

Election of Ordinary Members of the Committee

The meeting received and considered nominations for Members to fill the eight positions available to Ordinary Members to serve on the Committee for one year from the date of the AGM.

**The following Members were duly elected as Ordinary Members of the Committee:**

Jenny Braddy
Alison Brown

Lee Firth;

Stephanie Green

Val Harrison

Stewart Ramsdale;

Ian Stubbs

Larry Bruce

The meeting noted that Barry Harrison and Carol Cook were ex-officio members of the Committee.

Appointment of Auditor

**The meeting received and approved a proposal for the appointment of Ian Saul as auditor for both financial and membership records**

Any Other Business

The Chairman informed the meeting that no notification had been received of any other business to be considered.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

Start of Meeting: 10.15am

End of Meeting 10.25am