



Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16th March 2019 at Richards Castle Village Hall.

Present: Fifty-eight members attended – listed at the end

Apologies: received from fourteen members – listed at the end

1. Welcome

Jason O’Keefe welcomed everyone to the tenth annual general meeting of the Mortimer History Society and to the talk by Philip Hume on the medieval history of Richards Castle that would follow the formal meeting. Jason invited Dr Paul Dryburgh, President of the Mortimer History Society, to chair the meeting. Dr Dryburgh started by proposing a vote of thanks to the officers of the society for overseeing an excellent programme and achieving the splendid growth of the society.

2. Minutes of AGM 2018 and matters arising

The minutes of the AGM 2018 had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. It was decided that the minutes be agreed as written (proposed by Jason O’Keefe and seconded by Philip Hume).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chairman’s Report

The written report from the chairman had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

In presenting his report, Jason O’Keefe reported on another successful year for the society. The report was structured to show how the activity and work of the society contributed to progressing the objects of the society: to develop a better academic and practical appreciation of the Mortimers and the medieval Welsh Marches; to further study into a range of aspects; to work with schools, colleges and universities; and, to develop greater knowledge through the promotion of local and national research. Highlights were an expanded programme that included more talks and events; the continued work with local schools that now involves 13 schools; the essay prize and publication of the Journal. Jason outlined also the key events and developments planned for 2019, the Society’s tenth anniversary year, which includes another new initiative – two study weekends. Jason finished by thanking all the Trustees for their work and commitment.

Comments were made from the meeting about the excellent programme of talks and conferences that the society organises and that it is exceptionally good value for money. There was also discussion about the new initiative to film the talks at conferences to put on YouTube. Having been trialled at the talks in February, the

Trustees will be deciding whether to film the two special conferences in the summer before evaluating the long-term benefit.

The meeting agreed to accept the Chairman's report (proposed by Jason O'Keefe, seconded by Mike Beazley).

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and the annual accounts had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Mike Beazley, who is taking over as Treasurer, presented the accounts in the absence of Clive Jupp. Mike highlighted that the society completed the year with a small surplus and referred to how the balances are allocated to new developments.

The meeting agreed the annual accounts for 2018 and accepted the Treasurer's report (proposed by Mike Beazley, seconded by Philip Hume).

Paul Dryburgh proposed a vote of thanks for the excellent work and commitment of the outgoing Treasurer, Clive Jupp.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary's Report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Mike Beazley highlighted that at the end of the year membership stood at 362, a net increase of 86 members (31% increase), though also noted that since the 1st January membership had continued to increase to 394. Whilst 71% of members live in the West Midlands and Wales, 12% are from overseas (Mike noted a typing error in the report which should state 8 members in Europe rather than 23), with 17% elsewhere in the UK.

The meeting agreed to accept the Membership report (proposed by Nila Monkton, seconded by Fran Norton).

6. Election of Trustees

Although thirteen members had been proposed in advance as trustees, one, Sara Hanna-Black, had withdrawn her name due to other commitments. As the constitution allows for up to 12 Trustees, this meant that there was no need for an election and the following were elected for the period until the end of the next AGM in 2020:

Mike Beazley, Andrew Colby, Jean de Ruset, John Fleming, Elizabeth Holley, Philip Hume, Yve James, Clive Jupp, Kirsten Lawton-Smith, Jason O'Keefe, Stanton Stephens, Hugh Wood.

7. Proposal from the Trustees to amend the constitution

Philip Hume, on behalf of the Trustees, explained that the Trustees are proposing two changes to the constitution. The first is to add a new object to the constitution:

'to promote the preservation, conservation and public accessibility of objects, buildings and places related to the history of the medieval Mortimer family'

Philip explained that the reason for the proposed addition is that the trustees have realised that under the current objects it would not be permissible for the Society to become involved in campaigns to preserve, or improve access to, historic sites related to the Mortimers or other historical artefacts. The proposed new object remedies that. All members were consulted about this proposed additional object. No comments were received. The proposed change has also been approved by the Charity Commission subject to agreement at this meeting.

The meeting agreed that the new object be added to the constitution (proposed by the Trustees, seconded by John Peacock)

Philip explained that the second change is a minor administrative addition to incorporate best practice in preparing the end of year accounts:

‘The AGM shall appoint each year an independent person to examine the accounts.’

The meeting agreed that the new clause be added to the constitution (proposed by the Trustees, seconded by Jonathan Hopkinson)

8. Programme for 2019

The 2019 programme of conferences, lectures and study trips had been circulated at the meeting.

9. Date of 2020 AGM

It was agreed that the date of the AGM in 2020 would be Saturday 14th March at a venue to be agreed (nb: subsequently the date had to be changed to 28th March due to a clash of dates, and it was agreed that the venue would be Weobley Village Hall).

The formal meeting closed at 10.55 and was followed by an excellent talk by Philip Hume on the medieval castle and borough of Richard’s Castle

Members Present:

Robert Anderson, Eddie & Linda Ashman, John Barnes, Mike Beazley, Daniella Bergman, Sebastian Bowen, Carolyn Brette, Tony Bucknall, Leigh Bullimore, Ruth Butler, Rosalind Caird, Andrew & Esther Colby, Alan Dowdy, Paul Dryburgh, Bill Eastwell, Lynne Eaves, Owen Elias, Megan Ellis, Trefor Griffiths, Dawn Hall, Elizabeth Holley, John Hopkins, Jonathan Hopkinson, Noriko Horiuchi, Philip Hume, Yve James, Kris Johnstone, Sue Jones, Ian Lambert, Kirsten Lawton-Smith, Ashley Mantle, Joyce Marston, Nila Monckton, Janet Monnington, Lorraine Munn, Bob & Denise North, Mark North, Fran Norton, Jason O’Keefe, Mickie O’Neill, Gail & John Peacock, Liz Phillips, Rose Raine, Jean de Rusett, Lyn Sargent, Lindsay Smith, Peter Smith, Cynthia Spencer, Bridget Thomas, Helen Watt, Peter Wild, Gareth Williams, Keith Wilson, Hugh Wood.

Apologies received from:

Tony Mahalski, Linda Mahalski, Leslie Frith, Clive Jupp, John Grove, Lynne Danby, John Fleming, Inge Fleming, Ian Mortimer, Sara Hanna-Black, Stanton Stephens, Barbara Gittings, Brian Holley, Doris Wood