



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society held at Peter Symonds College - Science Lecture Theatre on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

The out-going president, Chris Elmer, welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for their attendance.

### 1. Apologies:

- 1.1. Apologies had been received from Jim Wilkes, Robin Iles, Bill Fergie, Roger Ottewill, Pauline Blagden, Steve Kirby and Bryony Lalor.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1. The minutes were read. Acceptance was proposed by Dick Selwood, seconded by Julia Sandison and **agreed**.

### 3. Matters arising

- 3.1. Dick Selwood noted that Hampshire Studies/Proceedings were now available on line. He thanked Nick Stoodley for his work in digitising the volumes for uploading the HFC webpages. There were no other matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### 4. President's Report

Chris Elmer gave the following report to the meeting:

- 4.1. Inevitably, as this is my final appearance as your president, I will reflect on the last three years as well as pull into focus the events of our last year. I'm sure that you will all join me in my admiration for and very genuine thanks to all of the committed volunteers who make the society work. This includes the officers who give up their time and energy to support the Council, those who work across the various sections which continue to offer a varied programme of events and activities over the year, and our ordinary members who attend and contribute to this diverse offering.
- 4.2. As Sandy McKenzie, our treasurer, will shortly explain our finances are sound and thanks to Mike Broderick, who has stepped in as acting secretary over the last few months, our business is conducted and recorded appropriately and with a firm eye on our charitable commitments and obligations. We have recently been tested by the new requirements of GDPR ( The General Data Protection Regulation) which comes into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May, which obliges us to ensure, quite correctly , that you are happy to receive our emails and newsletters and that we look after your personal data securely. You will see communications to this effect very soon.
- 4.3. The triumvirate of treasurer, secretary and president is an important, although never all powerful, element of the field club and its governance, and I would like to say a **personal** thank you , to all of you here from the Council, who supported my stuttering and slightly hesitant accession to the presidency. For any of you out there who would like to take on the role, which will remain vacant when I step down tonight, can I say that all my worst fears were never realised, and the Council and section officers offered a most supportive and encouraging atmosphere. In fact all of those fantastic initiatives which have grown over the last few years are entirely of others making, whether the desire to refresh the Hampshire papers, the launch of the local history writing competition, the exciting Hampshire graffiti recording project, our inaugural students conference, the development of our digital presence, through a redesigned web site and digital access to our publications, not to mention the many grant aided activities , and section inspired activities. It has been quite humbling to observe all of the energy and commitment this sort of work entails.

- 4.4. So we now enter a new phase of governance, and we will be electing our officer posts shortly. As I have intimated the president's post is up for grabs and so far nobody has stepped forwards, Dick Selwood, a very significant past president has agreed to stand in as 'chair'. Equally Sandy McKenzie will be stepping down at the end of this calendar year, and we are looking for a new treasurer. A few words about Sandy before I close: Sandy has been treasurer for 25 years and I know from my last few years on the council that Sandy has conducted her role with great integrity and rigour. Nothing with a number attached to it escapes Sandy's eye, but her discernment and occasional but always appropriate challenge of various projects and schemes has meant that, as a society, we have been able to conduct our affairs in a thoroughly ethical and very correct manner. I will end therefore by saying to Sandy, thank you on behalf of all of us for your many years of unstinting care towards the fortunes of our Society—you will be missed when you step down from the role on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. Treasurer's report

- 5.1. Sandy McKenzie presented the 2017 accounts. She began by noting that the current finances are not sound. She explained that subscriptions were down as a result of a number of short-term members who had joined, in 2016, to receive one particular volume of Hampshire Studies. Overall, we are not sustaining our position.
- 5.2. Bank interest, as in recent years, continues to be low though the best Charity Bond rates are now at 2%.
- 5.3. The expenses of the Postgraduate Research Conference, organised Mike Broderick and Haighleagh Winslade, increased Conference Expenses to a higher level than in 2016.
- 5.4. As in 2016, the biggest expenditure had been in the issuing of grants. The award of grants meets a key objective of the HFC's Constitution, namely 1 (a): "to promote the study ... and research ... within the county of Hampshire'. Notes to the Accounts listed the grants provided during 2017.
- 5.5. Publications had shown a surplus in 2017 despite the fact that there was still £3,713 outstanding in invoices for developer funded articles in Hampshire Studies. However, it was noted that future returns may not be as great due to: increased paper costs for the Newsletter, the availability of past editions of Proceedings online, decreases in developer funded articles. The continued use of Ingenta to host recent editions of Hampshire Studies online will be reviewed in 2019. An increase in costs for the annual Archaeology Reports in Hampshire has been an added financial burden.
- 5.6. All Sections had performed well financially which gave them more flexibility in the variety and costs of events that they offered. This included Section funding for member-led projects. The Hampshire Papers Section had received a grant from Eastleigh Borough Council.
- 5.7. Costs have been reduced by getting our insurance through the British Association of Local History.
- 5.8. In response to a question about having a digital membership option, Sandy said that this could be raised at Council.
- 5.9. The 2017 accounts were proposed by Julia Sandison, seconded by Chris Sellen and **accepted**.
- 5.10. She finished her report by noting that the role of Treasurer was not onerous. There are around 65, at maximum, cheques to deal with in a year. From month to month there is not a great deal to do; the exception is February when the accounts need to be audited; this should take around 6-7 hours.

At this point in the business, Chris Elmer stood down and Dick Selwood took over as Chair.

## 6. Election of Officers

- 6.1. Three posts were open to nominations. No names had been put forward for the roles of President or Treasurer, though Sandy MacKenzie has agreed to continue in her role until December 2018. However, the position of Secretary had one nomination: Steve Kirby. He was proposed by Mike Broderick, seconded by Chris Elmer and duly **elected**.
- 6.2. The following positions were re-elected nem con
- Chair of Editorial Board – Dave Allen
  - Membership Secretary – Jane King
  - Programme Secretary & Webmaster – Mike Broderick
  - Publications stockholder – Julia Sandison
  - Librarian – Jenny Ruthven of Hartley Library, University of Southampton

## 7. Election of Ordinary Members of Council

- Two Ordinary Members of Council were stepping down: Robin Iles and Karen Wardley. Thanks for their work over the last three years were minuted.
- Four ordinary members were continuing their terms, Jo Bailey, Haighleagh Winslade, Pauline Blagden and Alex Lewis.
- Two members had volunteered to fill the remaining two positions:
  - Sam Butcher: Proposed Jan Bristow, seconded Kay Ainsworth – **Elected**
  - Jane Wheeler: Proposed Jan Bristow, seconded Kay Ainsworth – **Elected**

## 8. Motions

Council had proposed an increase in membership rates as had been advertised to members prior to the AGM. Dick Selwood explained that if we are to continue to meet the Society's objective of encouraging and supporting research and to prevent any future short fall in finances, then an increase in rates is necessary. Comments from members were then taken. It was suggested that the differential between single and joint membership should be raised from £2 to £5.

- 8.1 The proposal to raise membership fees was put by Chris Elmer and seconded by Julia Sandison. A vote was taken and 37 were in favour with 0 votes against.
- 8.2 Tecker Jones proposed that the new rates of membership be amended so that dual membership was £20, for Ordinary Membership, and £35, for Ordinary Membership with Hampshire Studies. This was seconded by Viven Manfield. A vote was taken and 40 were in favour with 0 votes against. The motion was duly carried. The new rates, which will come into force on 1/1/19, are listed below.
- 8.3
- **Ordinary Membership**
    - Single £15 (from £10) Student £12 (from £7)
    - Dual £20 (from £12) Student £17 (from £9)
  - **Ordinary Membership with Hampshire Studies**
    - Single £30 (from £20) Student £22 (from £17)
    - Dual £35 (from £22) Student £27 (from £19)
  - **Institutional Membership**
    - £30 (from £20)

## 9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 Mike Broderick reported that he was unable to update the website due to problems experienced as a result of a take over of the previous hosting company. He will work with the new company to resolve this problem as soon as possible.
- 9.2 Julia Sandison reminded members of the hard work of the various committees and their members. Chris Elmer gave a vote of thanks for Council and Sections.

The AGM was followed by a well-received President's Lecture given by Katie Hinds: "The Portable Antiquities Scheme".

After questions a vote of thanks was given by Chris Elmer.