

# MARPLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2024 - 2025

Monday 14th April 2025

Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple

The chairman, Jackie Collins, opened the meeting at 19.45 and welcomed all present.

## 1) **Apologies**

Neil Mullineux

## 2) **Minutes of AGM 2024**

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the previous AGM 2023 - 2024  
There were no objections to them being adopted as a true and fair record.

Proposed - Christine Julier

Seconded - Hilary Atkinson

Passed unanimously.

## 3) **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## 4) **Presentation of Officer's Reports**

### **Chairman**

This has been another successful year with a membership base of 154 members plus 54 visitors coming during the year. Average attendance at each of the 8 talks given was 87 people. As well as the talks there have been walks and visits which are recorded in the report from the Visits Organiser. But the Society is about more than talks and walks. The newsletter and website attract a lot of attention and raise the Society's profile in the area. Thanks go to the team who are behind the production of the newsletter and the upkeep of the website. Since September last year the website has attracted an average of 965 viewing per week and the online archives, 910 viewing per week. These viewings generate a lot of questions which can need a lot of research and thanks go to the archive team for their work here. But the Society benefits as often donations of money, photographs, documents, maps and other items are given which all add the richness of the material held in the archives. Additionally information has been given verbally to Lisa Smart MP in her bid to get World Heritage status for the canal system, to The Wharf project, to Brabyns School to help a history project and to the Civic Society, largely by referring to material in the archives.

Also during the year the committee have been working to develop a business plan based on discussion during meetings, the results from a survey of members carried out in December 2024 and an 'away day' to brainstorm ideas. The main focus of this plan is to ensure the future of the Society. The resulting business plan will be put into operation during the coming year.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer summarised the main features of the accounts and reported that at the end of the year there was a balance of just over £7289. Income is usually derived from subscriptions, visitor receipts and book sales but this year there was additional income of £234.70 from the McNair Trust for the restoration of the Joel Wainwright scrap book, a grant from SMBC for £500 for the purchase of a new laptop and a donation of £262.06 from the Maple Website.

There have been continuing effort to get members to pay fees by bank transfer or standing order and now the majority of members pay this way.

In view of the balance in the bank account, the treasurer proposed that membership fees should remain the same for the coming year.

The accounts and records have been examined by the Independent Examiner, Leslie Birks and he has agreed them.

It was proposed that the accounts report and balance sheet be accepted.

Proposed – Ann Hayden

Seconded – Hilary Atkinson

Passed unanimously.

### **Visits and Walks**

During the year there have been 4 visits, the first held in March 2024 was a tour of Southern Cemetery led by Jonathon Schofield who is a Blue Badge guide. In May a trip to Bramall Hall was organised and in October there was a visit to Staircase House in Stockport when Eddie Wilshaw was the guide. The last trip of the year was held in February 2025 and was a bespoke visit to Avro Heritage Museum. All visits were well attended and participants travelled to the venues in their own transport or public transport. There were no coach trips during this year. Three summer strolls took place, the first being in May looking at the impact of WW1 on the Marple area led by Andy Cook, in June there was a walk round the conservation area of All Saints led by Neil Mullineux and in July two evening trips on the New Horizons narrow boat were arranged.

## **5) Election of Committee**

It was noted that Dale Spencer is stepping down and he was thanked for his contribution to the Society as both committee member and independent examiner.

The following committee members expressed their willingness to stand for re-election. The chairman made a point of introducing each member of the committee to the meeting before voting took place

Jackie Collins

Martin Cruickshank

Neil Derbyshire

Derek Drysdale

Louise Thistleton

Karen Wellings

Judith Wilshaw

Proposed by Ann Williams  
Seconded by Sheila Ross  
Passed unanimously

6) **Independent Examiner**

Leslie Birks has agreed to carry on in this role.  
Proposed by Christine Julier  
Seconded by Hilary Atkinson  
Elected unanimously.

7) **AOB**

A vote of thanks was given to Judith Wilshaw who is standing down as Visits Organiser after 29 years. During this time she has arranged 108 visits which have brought a lot of interest and pleasure to many members. Judith will remain as a committee member.

In the absence of any other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.15 p.m.