

# **MARPLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Annual General Meeting for the year 2022-23

Monday 17th April 2023

Methodist Church, Marple

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

## 1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jackie Collins and Maureen Walters.

## 2) Minutes of AGM 2022

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes for the previous AGM. The chairman also reminded the meeting that an addendum to those minutes regarding approval of the accounts had been approved at the September 2022 meeting.

In addition an EGM held on 14th November 2022 had agreed a resolution moving the financial year end to the last day of February from 2023.

There were no objections concerning the minutes and they were adopted as a true and fair record.

Proposed - Chris Walters

Seconded - Neil Derbyshire

Passed unanimously

## 3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 4) Presentation of Officer's Reports

Chairman

The chairman was pleased to report that the society was thriving with the highest membership ever and a resumption of almost all activities carried on pre-covid. She believes that it has a range of services, particularly the website and newsletter, that are equal to, or better than, any other similar society.

However, after a period of fourteen years as chairman and an equal time in other committee roles, she felt it was time to step aside and let others build on the foundations already laid. Four other committee members were leaving at the same time and it was gratifying that all of them will continue engaging actively with particular roles within the society. She commended the whole committee for the support they had given her in her time as chairman. Three members wish to join the committee and they will bring new ideas and different skills to take the society forward.

Although she is stepping down as chairman she will still be heavily involved in its activities by writing a book and building the archives. Most importantly, she believes that the foundations that have been built in all areas will allow the society to go on to greater strength over the next few years.

President

The president expressed regret that he had to step down for personal reasons after a much shorter period than he had hoped. He appreciated the help and support he has been given by the committee during that time. Although no longer in post he will continue supporting the society in future, as he has done for many years, by advising and helping with the website and the online archive, as well as maintaining and adding to the Virtual History Tour.

Treasurer

The accounts presented this year are for an eleven month period so they are not directly comparable with previous years.

Membership has continued to grow and visitors to meetings have contributed to higher income. In addition revenue from book sales has also increased, driven partly by the publication of a new title. The gift aid contribution covers two years as the claim made last year was not received until this financial year.

Expenditure has generally risen in line with the cost of living and as the society does more in terms of new publications and exhibitions. There is pressure on some costs and a need to raise finance for future growth so the committee has proposed a rise in membership fees to £15 but that will be considered as a separate item to these accounts.

We are exploring alternative payment methods for membership fees to be introduced at the start of the next financial year.

Finally the treasurer reminded members that we have a £500 bond in the Marple Wharf project. This is an asset although it is not shown in the accounts because the Charity Commission regulations do not require a balance sheet.

The treasurer recommended that the members should accept the accounts for the year 2022-23. This was seconded by Louise Thistleton and accepted unanimously.

#### Visit Organiser

Although Covid restrictions were eased by summer 2022 people took time to adjust to the new environment so the first events were the three summer evening walks in May, June and July. The first organised day trip was to Buxton in October with members travelling independently. Two guides from 'Discover Buxton' led our two groups.

A similar trip with members making their own travel arrangements was made in March to Manchester Art Gallery, led by Jonathan Schofield. He covered the main architectural details of the buildings before going inside to discuss the excellent display of Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

Our first organised coach trip will be held a few days after the AGM. This will be to Wirksworth, an interesting destination which will test the possibility of resuming normal visits by coach.

#### 5) Proposed increase in subscriptions.

As there has been no increase in membership subscriptions for 16 years the committee felt that this merited a specific vote at the AGM with the proposal explained by the treasurer.

Although we have usually achieved a surplus of income over expenditure, for the last two years this has only been because of exceptional one off receipts. Ideally we should cover our basic expenditure with membership fees and this is no longer the case. Various alternatives have been considered but the consensus was to raise the subscription to £15 for the coming year.

There were no questions raised. An increase in fees was proposed by David Burrige and seconded by Chris Walters. It was passed with no dissenting votes.

#### 6) Election of Committee

Five members of the current committee were willing to stand for re-election:

Jackie Collins

Martin Cruickshank

Neil Derbyshire  
Louise Thistleton  
Judith Wilshaw

Election was proposed by Christine Julier  
seconded by Sheila Ross

Elected unanimously

Three members were willing to be put forward for election

Derek Drysdale  
Bridget Pettigrew  
Tom Pettigrew

Proposed by Louise Thistleton  
Seconded by Judith Wilshaw  
Elected unanimously

7) Independent examiner

Dale Spencer has agreed to carry on in this role.

Proposed by Anne Haden  
Seconded by Lynda Jenkins  
Elected unanimously

8) AOB

In the absence of any other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.16 p.m.