



Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279



Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Records Society held in St Andrew's Church, Melton on Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 57th AGM including Mr Chas Taylor, Vice Chairman of Melton Parish Council, which had made a generous grant to the Society towards publishing costs; Mr Robert Blake, Chairman of Melton Local History Society and the members of that Society who were also present.

Apologies for absence: Dr David Dymond, President of the Society, Dr Nicholas Karn, Charters Series editor, Revd Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, Dr Nicholas Amor, James Powell, CEO of Boydell & Brewer, Revd Paul Hambling, rector of Melton and 82 members of the Society.

1482 Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting

The minutes, which had previously been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1483 Trustees' Report for the year 2018-2019

The Trustees' report had previously been circulated giving a précis of the work of the Council over the year.

1484 Financial Statements for 2017-2018

The financial statements had previously been circulated. The Treasurer reported that John Webb, an editor of three previous volumes, had left the Society a very generous bequest of £29,847. The bulk of this had been added to the investment portfolio while the balance would make to day to day running costs slightly easier. The Charters series were also in a satisfactory position after publishing volume XX. The report was proposed by John Saunders and seconded by David Sherlock; all agreed. The Treasurer was thanked by the Chairman for his excellent work in managing the Society's finances.

1485 Report of volumes in progress

There was a succession of volumes in preparation and the next, in 2020, would be Dr Margaret Thomas's volume on Cornelius Collett and the Suffolk Yeomanry which had been based in Woodbridge. Mr Sherlock was thanked by the Chairman for continuing to oversee a production line of excellent volumes.

1486 Election of Chairman

Mr Sherlock took the chair and proposed Mr Victor Gray as Chairman; this was seconded by Jane Fiske; all were in favour and Mr Gray resumed the chair.



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1487 Election of Officers

The Chairman read out the list of Officers who had all offered to stand again and were proposed en bloc by Paul Simmons and seconded by Peter Ledger; all agreed.

1488 Election of Council Members

All the Council members offered themselves for re-election with the exception of Professor Richard Wilson. He had been a member of Council for 18 years, continuing the link with our sister society the Norfolk Record Society. Another member from the NRS would be asked to join the Council in due course. The remaining Council members were proposed en bloc by Tanya Christian and seconded by John Saunders and all agreed.

1489 Election of Vice-Presidents

The Council proposed to appoint two new vice-presidents: Clive Paine, with whom everyone was familiar for his work on local history, teaching local history classes and courses and organising many expeditions around the county's historical sites. The other was Mr Kim Gibson-Wynes who was a life member and had for many years supported the Society with a generous annual grant towards the publishing costs of the volumes. They were proposed by Paul Simmons, seconded by Professor Wilson and all agreed.

1490 Election of Independent Examiner

Mrs Rosie Unthank was proposed as Independent Examiner by Tanya Christian and seconded by David Sherlock; all agreed.

1491 Volume 62

The Chairman introduced Dr John Shaw, the editor of Volume 62 *The Loes and Wilford Poor Law Incorporation, 1765-1826*.

1492 Votes of thanks

The Chairman thanked Dr Shaw for his talk. He also thanked Rev Paul Hambling, Rector of Melton, Mrs Beryl Lucas the parish administrator, Mrs Ros Champkin, the organiser of the Church room. He also thanked Mrs Barker and Mrs Christian for organising the evening's event and invited everyone to have a glass of wine and refreshments.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020/2021

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were Mr Victor Gray (Chairman), Dr David Allen, Mrs Claire Barker, Dr Keith Briggs (SIAH representative, co-opted), Ms Kate Chantry, Mrs Tanya Christian, Dr David Dymond (President), Mr. Charles Farrow (NRS representative), Dr Jane Fiske, Dr Kate Jewell (co-opted), Dr Nicholas Karn, Revd Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Mr Clive Mees, Dr Harvey Osborne, Mr David Sherlock. Council consisted of six Honorary Officers and ten elected members.
Mr Clive Paine and Mr Kim Gibson-Wynes were elected Vice-Presidents at the 2019 AGM. .
2. The 2020 AGM was at first postponed but later cancelled in line with the Government's regulations over Covid-19. Members were kept informed of the situation by post and email. The Charity Commission was informed and consequently granted an extension to the annual return deadline.
3. MEMBERSHIP: As of 1 January 2021 there were 316 members: 250 individuals (including 4 life members) and 66 institutions. 2020 saw our biggest annual decrease in membership numbers to date. Practical steps are being taken to address and halt, as far as possible, a trend common to most similar record publishing societies.
4. FINANCE: Finances are on a sound footing despite the difficult year. Just over £10,000 had been spent during the year but the Society had published and distributed two volumes and digitised 19 out of print volumes for the website. Although investments were down by 7.5%, there had been a return of 6% over the year which was felt to be more than acceptable given the current climate. The *Charter Series* income and expenditure is also as in previous years. The printing costs of *Cartulary and Charters of the Priory of St. Peter and Paul* are shown as being spread over two financial years.
5. GENERAL SERIES: The 2021 volume 64 will be *Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre of 1240*, edited by Dr Eric Gallagher, revised with an introduction by Henry Summerson. This will be the first volume to be published simultaneously as an eBook. The volume for 2022 is likely to be Vivienne Aldous's edition of medieval documents from Monks' Eleigh.
6. CHARTERS SERIES: The second volume of a two-volume edition of the charters of the Priory of St Peter and St Paul edited by Dr David Allen was published and distributed to members in June 2020. Dr Vivien Brown's work on the Bury St Edmunds Town Charters continues.
7. WEBSITE: The Society's website www.suffolkrecordsociety.com continues to expand with the facility to purchase volumes and pay subscriptions online and with new pages for Book Reviews and obituaries. Nineteen out of print volumes have been digitised by Mustard Creative and uploaded to the site. They can be read online, searched and downloaded in .pdf and Flipbook form and are offered free of charge. Other digital documents have also been published with ongoing plans to expand this part of the site, enhancing the Society's offering to Suffolk historical studies.
8. The Society will hope to meet at an AGM later in 2021 to launch volume 63, *Cornelius Collett and the Suffolk Yeomanry, 1794-1820*, edited by Dr Margaret Thomas, Charters Series XXI *The Cartulary and Charters of the Priory of Saints Peter and Paul, part II*, edited by Dr David Allen and volume 64 *Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre of 1240*, edited by Dr Eric Gallagher, revised with an introduction by Dr Henry Summerson.

Victor Gray
Chairman



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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Suffolk Records Society					Charter Series			
2									
3	Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2020								
4									
5			2020	2019				2020	2019
6	Subscriptions		355	402		Editor's expenses		79	700
7	Sales		59	202		Bank charges		60	60
8	Dividends and interest		134	238		Publishers		2,604	2,150
9	Royalties		121	87		Postage		39	261
10	Donation		36	36		Expenses		0	103
11	Excess of payments over receipts		2,077	2,309					
12									
13			2,782	3,274				2,782	3,274
14									
15									
16	Deficit to accumulated funds		3,421	2,403		Decrease in valuation		0	94
17						Loss on sale of investments		1,344	0
18						Excess of payments over receipts		2,077	2,309
19									
20			3,421	2,403				3,421	2,403
21									
22	Balance Sheet 30 September 2020								
23									
24			2020	2019				2020	2019
25	Accumulated Funds		16,298	18,701		Cash at Bank		9,563	11,529
26	(Deficit)		-3,421	-2,403		Owed by SRS		3,314	172
27						Investments at Charles Stanley		0	4,597
28			12,877	16,298				12,877	16,298
29									
30	I have examined the books and records of the Suffolk Records Society Charter Series and from the information								
31	supplied to me confirm that the accounts are in accordance with those records.								
32									
33	Rosemary Unthank								
34	19th January 2021								

Registered Address: Westhorpe Lodge, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4TA.

Tel: 01449 781078, Mob: 07876 496065 Email: claire@ejbarker.co.uk Website: www.suffolkrecordsociety.com

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Suffolk Records Society												
2	Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2020												
3													
4					2020	2019						2020	2019
5	Subscriptions				5,272	5,519		Boydell & Brewer Ltd				6,452	8,048
6	Sales				409	704		Postage and Stationery				0	37
7	Investment Income				2,699	2,516		Warehouse Postage				1,022	1,323
8	Royalties				662	2,138		AGM				0	472
9	Grants				0	250		Digitizing records				1,044	0
10	Donations				145	610		Web site hosting				720	420
11	Legacy				0	99		Donation to SRO (Cullum Papers)				0	1,000
12	Excess of payments over receipts				2,259	1,591		Sundries				1,846	1,765
13								Storage				362	<u>362</u>
14					11,446	13,427						11,446	13,427
15													
16	Excess of receipts over payments				0	0		Excess of payments over receipts				2,259	1,591
17	Increase in value of investments				0	9,230		Loss on sale of investments				963	783
18	Deficit to Accumulated Funds				15,777	0		Reduction in value of investments				12,555	0
19								Surplus to Accumulated Funds				0	<u>6,856</u>
20					15,777	9,230						15,777	9,230
21													
22	Balance Sheet 30 September 2020												
23					2020	2019						2020	2019
24	Accumulated Funds				86,221	79,365		Cash at Bank				7,087	8,807
25	(Deficit)/Surplus				-15,777	6,856		Virgin Money				9,661	9,589
26								Cash at Brokers				2,746	8,514
27								Investments at Charles Stanley				54,264	59,482
28								Owed to Charters				-3,314	-171
29					70,444	86,221						70,444	86,221
30													
31	I have examined the books and records of the Suffolk Records Society and from the information supplied to me confirm that the												
32	accounts are in accordance with those records.												
33													
34	Rosemary Unthank												
35	19th January 2021												