



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Glendale Local History Society at the Cheviot Centre, Wooler on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Chrys Murphy, Sue Rogers, Patsy Healey, Derek Riley, Allan Colman.

**2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021** were agreed. Proposed: Rosemary Bell; seconded: Michael Ormsby.

**3. Matters arising from the last minutes:** none.

### **4. Chairman's Report from Patsy Healey given by Alan Sture (Secretary):**

I can report on a very successful year, after the two years of covid disruption. We have been able to run our usual programme of talks, outings and newsletters. Of course, there are still some members who have to be cautious about meeting 'in person', but all our meetings since September have been very well-attended. Membership has held up well, with 71 subscribing members for this season, and we have been pleased to welcome many new members, as well as meeting up again with longstanding friends. We also attract several visitors to every meeting – some who would be members but cannot manage many events just now. Most members are now using email to keep in touch, though we are aware of a few who cannot, so we make sure that information is distributed by hand or post or phone as well – though there has been the occasional breakdown, for which many apologies. The GLHS website ([www.glendalelocalhistory.org](http://www.glendalelocalhistory.org)) and email address ([GLHSoc@gmail.com](mailto:GLHSoc@gmail.com)) is also increasingly used to get in touch with the Society. The Society has actively engaged with other societies and groups, sometimes helping out with projects led by others, as we have reported in our Newsletter. Our finances are in good shape, given that we asked for no subscriptions for 2020-21 (see the Treasurer's Report). This is partly because the books and leaflets we produced over the past two years are selling well – too well, in fact, so this year we are having to invest in re-printing. We also want to be in a position to promote local history projects which members are involved in, as we have done in the past. With this in mind, and in expectation of rising costs over the coming year including room hire and speaker fees, we will be recommending that subscriptions go up for September 2022-23 to £10.00. Hopefully, we can keep to this amount for some time.

As we have indicated in our Newsletter and at meetings, we have been managing the Society with a Core Team of only six people. I will be stepping down from the Committee and as Chair (on the grounds of age!). Three other people, one a former Team member, have offered to join the Team: Colin Watson, Pam Ratcliffe, Peter Davies

Rather than decide in advance how tasks are to be distributed among the ongoing Team, we plan a meeting in April and will ask you to confirm Team roles after this by email/post.

Finally, on behalf of us all, some thank-yous are in order:

- To Alan Sture, who took on and further developed the roles of Secretary and Membership Secretary
- To Rosemary Bell, our longstanding programme secretary, without whom we would not have such a varied and well-organised programme. (Note that formally Rosemary has exceeded her time limit in this role, but we could not have done without her over the past two years).
- To Allan Colman, who took on the task of Treasurer, and has managed this effectively despite home commitments which make it difficult for him to come to meetings
- To Derek Riley, who has kept our website up-to-date
- To Jim Bird, who has both looked after our health and safety, but also taken charge of our posters and display material.
- To others who help, though not as part of the Core Team, especially Muriel Edwin for the coffees/teas and wonderful cakes; and Charlie Brown, Margaret Kirby and Pam Ratcliffe for doing write-ups of our Talks and Outings.
- And of course to everyone for your interest and company as members!

Patsy Healey, GLHS Chair 2021-22

### **5. Treasurer's Report given by Alan Sture (Secretary):**

As reported at the last AGM (September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021), the financial reporting period now runs on a calendar-year basis, so the accounts presented were for all 12 months of 2021, compared with the previous period of 20 months from May 2019 to December 2020.

Another consideration is that the **Project Account**, which had been established to accommodate the *Ten History Walks* book and the Interpretation Boards project, was closed, and all monies transferred to the **Main Account**, used for normal Society activities.

#### **Income**

When compared with the previous period, income was down nearly 50%, but that was to be expected because we are comparing 12 months with 20 months. We also received no grants during the last 12 months. However, two points are worthy of mention: Membership Fees were re-introduced in September 2021, and in the 4 months to December we received £504 which represents 63 members. We have received an additional 8 subscribers since January 2022; Book Sales brought in £2371.30 and continue to sell well through retail outlets, monthly meetings and, increasingly, on-line.

#### **Expenditure**

The biggest single expenditure, £2714.50, was for Book and Leaflet design and printing, largely for the *Ten History Walks* which was first published in April 2021. New expenditures for this period included £57.56 for Zoom licences, when we were running on-line meetings (January to April 2021), and Miscellaneous post and stationary £149.32, to cover on-line book sales and display board materials. (erratum: a figure of £50 was listed under *Legal Expenses* when it should have been listed as *Storage* as this was the annual fee Charged by the Cheviot Centre for use of their storage garage).

## **Balance**

With opening balances at January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in the Main account, Project account and Petty Cash combined at £6150.64, offset by income of £3195.72 and expenditure of £3566.53, the closing balance at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in the Main (only remaining) account was £5626.83 with an additional £153 held as Petty Cash.

Denis Mullan asked if any provision was made in the accounts for the stock of unsold books to be included as assets. The reply was no.

The presentation of Accounts was accepted: Proposed: Michael Ormsby; seconded: Denis Mullan.

## **6. Confirmation of officers and members of the committee**

The following current members of the Committee are willing to stand:

**Alan Sture, Rosemary Bell, Derek Riley, Jim Bird, Allan Colman.**

Patsy Healy is standing down as Chairman and retiring from the Committee.

Three members have offered to join the team: **Colin Watson, Pam Ratcliffe, Peter Davies.**

Because of the current shortage of committee members, some members are performing two or more officer roles, which is obviously unsustainable and impractical. As we also need to elect a new Chairman, it was agreed by the existing Committee members to hold an extraordinary Committee meeting subsequent to this AGM to decide on the roles and responsibilities of the new Committee and the general membership will be informed electronically to allow for comments and endorsement or opposition. For the last three AGMs, appeals for assistance with the running of the Society have received little or no response.

## **7. Motion to agree increase in Annual subscription.**

The motion to increase the annual membership fee from £8 per annum to £10 per annum was put to the membership attending. Although the Society's finances are currently in a healthy state, book and leaflet reprinting will account for a sizeable amount and there has also been an increase in room hire charges and external speaker fees. An annual membership of £10 is still as cheap as, if not cheaper than, many of our neighbouring societies and, at an average cost of £1.25 per meeting including refreshments, still represents excellent value.

The motion was put to the floor. Proposed; Denis Mullan; seconded: Jackie Stewart, and carried by a show of hands.

## **8. Comments from the floor/AOB: none**

**9.** The meeting closed at 9:01pm.