Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on 12th May 2012 at the Riverside Centre, Newport at 12:00 noon

There were 74 members in attendance.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from 21 members: Terry BRIDGER, Denise BROWN, Sheila BROWN, Les BROWN, Malcolm BUCKELL, Rosemary BUCKELL, Barbara CHARD, Gordon CHILDS, Richard DAY, Yvonne DOORNEKAMP, Tony ELGAR, Margaret ELSDEN, Ros FLETCHER, Vel HIER, Cecelia LANGE, John MOXON, Sue MOXON, Angela SHERRY, Helen SMITH, Shirley STALLARD and Barbara STARMANS.

Minutes of the AGM held on 14th May 2011

The Chairman read the Minutes of the last AGM. Peter SPENCER proposed and Roger CREW seconded that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was carried unanimously.

Chairman’s Report

Jon Matthews thanked all the Committee members for their support and gave a Powerpoint presentation on the year’s activities. In particular he mentioned:

• Thanks to Sharon BEDDARD, our Membership Secretary, in year 2012 we have over 1,000 members, although 175 of year 2011 members have still to renew in 2012.

• The first 100 quarterly journals are now available on CD and accessible on the website for members. Thanks to Peter SPENCER, Journal Editor.

• The 2011 winners of the Di Harding Award were: 1st - Rosemary COOPER; 2nd - Edna ROWLAND; and 3rd - Val STUART.

• The BMD Index is now complete to 2010. A new War Memorial Index is now online. The Church Burial Index is continually being enhanced as records for new churches and materials are added. Thanks to Geoff ALLAN, Webmaster.

• At the FFHS meeting on Saturday 24 March 2012 the IWFHS website was awarded third prize in the Small Societies category of best websites. Jon presented Geoff ALLAN with the Certificate.

• Transcription of the burial cards at the Records Office is under way, proceeding in alphabetic order of surname. So far As and Bs have been completed. The Project Manager is Antony BARTON.

• Thanks to Janet GRIFFIN for manning the Resource Centre on Saturday mornings, to Glenn LANE for his generous donations which have enabled us to replace computer equipment, to Tony ELGAR for setting this up and to Hazel PULLEN for her ongoing work re-cataloguing the items held at the Resource Centre.
• Thanks to Lesley ABRAHAM, Programme Secretary, for organising all the events for members. Following the success of two talks given by members at ‘First Monday in the Month’ meetings, we would like more members to give talks about their own research experiences.

• Secretary Liz BAIL has unfortunately had to resign her post. Di HAYTER has been co-opted as Acting Secretary from February 2012.

Treasurer's Report

This Report outlines the financial activity of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2011. Summary Accounts, and the documents from which they have been derived, are available for inspection.

Revenue

The first thing to be said is to acknowledge the very generous support of members through donations. These have increased by almost 40% to £1,800. Thank you all. This is from a diminishing membership base that yielded £11,102, down almost 5%. Media sales declined by about 52% and shipping payments by 40%. Interest on Bank deposit remains uninteresting but some improvement will arise from the transfer of our reserves to term deposit.

Expenditure

This year we suffered a deficit of £255 on our activities. Journal costs rose by about £500 and premises rental by £200. Media purchases and Parish Chest fee declined in line with falling media sales but small increases occurred under most other headings. Broadband cost was of concern but has been reduced by tailoring the service more closely to our needs.

Conclusions

Our reserves are substantial but an operating deficit even at 1.7% of income is unwelcome. Given the absorbed and impending increases in Journal production and distribution, the case for a rise in subscription is persuasive. We shall make a recommendation for increase either for 2013 by an EGM later this year or for 2014 at the next AGM.

Antony BARTON proposed and Charles TAYLOR seconded that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt a new Constitution

The proposed new Constitution, covering the points raised at last year’s AGM, had been circulated to members in the February 2012 journal. There were no further queries at this AGM. Sally McCONKEY proposed and Roger CREW seconded that the new Constitution be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

Appointment of President and Vice-Presidents

Don HAYWARD proposed and Charlie TAYLOR seconded that Janet FEW be appointed as President for the next three years. There being no other nominations, Janet was duly elected.

Chris BRAUND, Dina BROUGHTON and Janet GRIFFIN were nominated by the Executive Committee as Vice-Presidents, in recognition of their long service and contributions to the Society since its inception. These nominations were carried unanimously.
Election of the Executive Officers and Committee

The President, Janet FEW, took the chair to elect a Chairman for the coming year.

Chairman
Chris BRAUND proposed, and Barry HALL seconded, that Jon MATTHEWS be elected as Chairman; there being no other nominations, Jon was duly elected.

Jon MATTHEWS returned to chair the rest of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman
Sally WATSON proposed, and Janet FEW seconded, that Geoff ALLAN be elected as Vice-Chairman; there being no other nominations, Geoff was duly elected.

Secretary
Jon MATTHEWS proposed, and Peter SPENCER seconded, that Di HAYTER be elected as Secretary; there being no other nominations, Di was duly elected.

Treasurer
Geoff ALLAN proposed, and Jon MATTHEWS seconded, that Malcolm TAIT be elected as Treasurer; there being no other nominations, Malcolm was duly elected.

Committee
Since all out-going Committee members had indicated that they were willing to be re-appointed, Janet FEW proposed and Chris BRAUND seconded, that the out-going Committee members (Lesley ABRAHAM, Betty DHILLON, Tony ELGAR, Hazel PULLEN, Sharon BEDDARD and Peter SPENCER) be elected en bloc. In addition, Antony BARTON would join the Committee as Burials Index Co-ordinator. This was carried unanimously.

The AGM was declared closed by the Chairman at 12.30 pm.

After the close of the AGM, discussion took place on two important matters:

Annual Lunch
There was discussion as to whether the New Year lunch should be moved to the day after the AGM. Chris BRAUND suggested an evening meal on the day of the Conference and on a show of hands this was the preferred option. There will be a questionnaire in the August journal about this.

Journal Costs
In view of the increased cost of printing and postage there was some discussion about raising the subscriptions to cover this, and whether some members would be willing to receive their journal in electronic form. There will be a questionnaire in the August journal to canvass members’ views on this.

Di HAYTER
Secretary