

HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting

11.00 am, Saturday 12 June 2021 via Zoom

Present: Dr Nick Barratt (President)
Mr Paul Pinhorne (Chairman)
Mrs Gwen Newland (Secretary)
Mrs Ann-Marie Shearer (Treasurer)

Members of the Executive Committee and Development Forum
Members of the Society

1 Welcome by Paul Pinhorne - Chairman, Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS)

Dr Nick Barratt opened the meeting and handed over to Paul Pinhorne, the Society's Chairman. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM via Zoom since the Society was unable to hold a physical AGM for a second year. He gave details of how the meeting would be run and advised that the meeting would be recorded. Attendees should raise their hands if they wished to speak and votes would be by 'Against' or 'Abstention' rather than 'For'. Joint members were reminded that they only had one vote, and those who did not attend the 2020 AGM would need to abstain from the vote on the acceptance of the minutes. There were 66 devices logged in, but the President and Chairman had no voting rights, so the total number of votes should equal 64.

The Chairman then introduced Nick Barratt, the Society's President. Nick said he was missing the social side of family history, and was looking forward to meeting HGS members in person next year. However, we should look to retain the advantages of Zoom, allowing distant members to take part in HGS activities. He complimented the Society on how it was run - forward-thinking, well-organised and innovative. He was very happy to be involved with future plans.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Hurst, Stephen Kirkpatrick, Diane Miles, Kent Parson, Stephen Pomeroy, Jenny Scott, Valerie Steele, Linda Stephens and Sue Wright.

3 Minutes of 2020 AGM (10 October 2020)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

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| Proposer: | Fiona Ranger | In favour: | 44 |
| Seconder: | Kay Lovell | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 20 |

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Chairman's Annual Report

The full report had been posted on the HGS website along with the rest of the AGM papers, but the Chairman gave a summary:

This had been a testing year for the Society with 'lockdowns' due to the Covid-19 pandemic being implemented for long periods and there had not been any physical Group or Governance meetings. The Research Centre and Office had been closed to visitors since March 2020 and volunteers had had limited opportunities to return. Many of the Groups, all of which had to close down in March last year, had utilised the Society's Zoom accounts to maintain meetings, and this had seen several out of county and overseas members join in. Zoom had enabled the Society to form the International Group which had been well attended.

The Chairman was extremely pleased that membership continued to hold firm and accounts were shown to be robust.

He noted that without a good Executive Committee, enthusiastic Group Organisers and keen volunteers we would not be able to maintain a flourishing Society. He thanked all of them for their hard work and contribution. He also wished to mention one of the longest-serving members who, for 47 years, had worked behind the scenes. Clive Colpus had been responsible for the transcribing of the Society's Memorial Inscriptions (MIs) which cover almost every Hampshire cemetery and graveyard.

In his full report, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to the various members who have worked hard for the Society during these testing times. The changed circumstances had caused the Society to examine the way it worked and this would be used to review the strategy for the next few years.

Although the Research Centre had not been open to visitors, with the help of many members HGS had been able to continue to answer research queries remotely. In addition, the 'Shop' had continued to function from the homes of volunteers and the bookstall had also joined various 'virtual' Family History Shows.

In his report, Paul indicated that the lease on the current Research Centre was due to expire in August 2021. For the past year at least, a small sub-committee had been set up to explore the opportunities for a new Research Centre. At the start of June, the Chairman was able to announce that from August the Society will relocate to the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in Winchester. This move would allow for a partnership to develop between two organisations with the same aims. He wished to thank all those who have served HGS well in Cosham, and hoped that some would join the venture in Winchester. This move would allow members greater access to Hampshire records, along with helping to maintain the financial future of the Society.

Finally the Chairman wished to thank all the members for their continuing support. Without this there would be no HGS.

Nick Barratt welcomed the closer association with Hampshire Records Office, and noted that some other societies were looking at similar arrangements - indeed, Gloucestershire Family History Society had already achieved this and this had boosted their membership and accessibility at a time when archives were under threat. He felt partnership agreements were a model for the archives sector and family history societies.

Judy Kimber supported this and advised that she works as a volunteer at the Gloucestershire Archives and it was working very well having both organisations in the same building. The archivists could refer 'beginners' to the society volunteers. Since lockdown there had been weekly meetings between the archive staff, volunteers and Gloucestershire FHS. Paul Pinhorne reported that HGS had visited the Gloucestershire facility and had thought it to be a very good model, although this had been achieved with lottery support.

April Wood Ashton asked if meetings were to be held in HRO, would there be an archivist available to answer questions. The Chairman advised that HGS will only be present on two days per week to start with, at times when HRO was open. The advantage to HGS was that at Cosham, lone working wasn't permitted and so if there weren't two volunteers available on a given day then the centre couldn't open. Within HRO, the Society would be able to have a presence with just one volunteer. Nick Barratt said that each part of the partnership would have a different role to play. A trained technical archivist would carry out such functions as cataloguing, conservation or interpretation of records, but what April was referring to was archive staff who would offer advice and support and onward referral to other help (eg HGS). Paul clarified that HGS would not be taking on any of the HRO's work.

6 Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts

The Treasurer, Ann-Marie Shearer, had produced her report which had been included with the AGM papers on the website. It had been a very difficult year but the Society had held steady. There were no questions from the floor.

7 Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed to reappoint Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors.

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| Proposer: | Marilyn Lovett | In favour: | 58 |
| Seconder: | Ann-Marie Shearer | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 6 |

8 Appointment of Charity Trustees

Details of those standing for election or re-election to the Executive Committee had been made available to the membership via the website. Paul temporarily handed over the chairing of the meeting to Nick.

Appointment of Chairman - Paul Pinhorne

Nick outlined that this would be a straight vote, with no proposers or seconders.

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| In favour: | 62 |
| Against: | 0 |
| Abstentions: | 2 |

Paul was duly re-elected and resumed the chair. He thanked members for re-electing him, and also thanked the team of Trustees and volunteers behind him.

Re-appointment of Principal Officers

Vice-Chair: Chris Pavey
Treasurer: Ann-Marie Shearer
Secretary: Gwen Newland

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| Proposer: | Mary Voller | In favour: | 60 |
| Seconder: | Marion Gilmour | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 4 |

Re-appointment of Trustees

For the past year, for the first time in many years, there had been a full complement of 13 Trustees. However, Stuart Attrill wished to stand down, and he was thanked for his contribution. The following were all willing to continue:

John Bowman
Margaret Bowman
Elaine Boyes
Phil Brown
Kay Lovell
Fiona Ranger
Keith Turner
Angela Winteridge

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| Proposer: | Stuart Attrill | In favour: | 54 |
| Seconder: | Pat Hoskins | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 10 |

NB: Those being appointed could not vote for themselves, hence the level of abstentions.

9 Proposed Changes to the Constitution

The changes as published on the website had been brought about by the pandemic and were, in part, amendments to those agreed in 2020, in order to give the Society the flexibility to hold hybrid meetings if required.

The changes involved the insertion of additional wording to sections of Clause 5 - Management:

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held via videoconference, or as a hybrid of a face-to-face and videoconference, where it is deemed necessary.

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| Proposer: | Marilyn Lovett | In favour: | 63 |
| Seconder: | Mary Voller | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 1 |

Meetings of the Development Forum may be held via videoconference, or as a hybrid of a face-to-face and videoconference, where it is deemed necessary.

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| Proposer: | Ann McKenzie | In favour: | 64 |
| Seconder: | Graham Mist | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 0 |

and Clause 10 - Annual General Meeting:

An Annual General Meeting shall be held each calendar year within six months of the Society's financial year end. The Annual General Meeting may be held via videoconference, or as a hybrid of a face-to-face and videoconference, where it is deemed necessary.

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| Proposer: | Mary Voller | In favour: | 64 |
| Seconder: | Stephen Philpotts | Against: | 0 |
| | | Abstentions: | 0 |

Mary Voller queried whether the phrasing excluded just face-to-face meetings but it was clarified that the 'default' was face-to-face meetings but the amendments gave flexibility to cover all permutations.

10 Any Other Business

No items of AOB had been submitted in advance so the Chairman asked if there were any items from the floor.

- (a) Resumption of Face-to-Face Meetings: April Wood Ashton asked when physical meetings would resume. The Chairman advised that the Society would follow Government guidelines. Some groups were hoping to start again in July but guidelines may be changing. The current maximum on gatherings was 30 so this may restrict some groups, and there may be onerous cleaning restrictions. Much would depend on the approach taken by individual venues.
- (b) Transcription Work: Margaret Jefferies advised that she had previously volunteered as a transcriber at Cosham and asked if there would be a separate room available for transcription work at HRO, or just a separate table. She also asked what would happen to the contents of the Cosham Research Centre.

Paul advised that there would be three areas available to HGS at HRO, including two tables in the search room and bookcases. There would be the opportunity for quiet areas and access to meeting rooms. However, the Society would have remote access to records so more work could be done from home. This would also provide the opportunity for out of county/overseas members to contribute if they wished to, whereas previously they would have been unable to do so.

A larger room would have been better but costs elsewhere proved prohibitive. The Society's books would be taken to HRO, although there were some duplicates with HRO stock. Some books for other counties would be released, but those for adjacent counties and London would be kept. Society members would have first refusal on items no longer required. Chris Pavey had already listed the relevant counties in the June Journal and had received some enquiries. The catalogue

would be updated and revamped following the move. 70 boxes had been packed so far.

- (c) Online Records: John Dymott asked about the online records on FindMyPast and where they came from. Paul advised that the Society had a contract with FMP and they received the majority of the Hampshire baptisms, marriages and burials, along with The Genealogist. FMP also received records from elsewhere. John's reason for asking was that Fordingbridge had been included but not the local parish of Hyde. Chris said she would investigate. Hyde only became a separate parish around 1850 so it was possible that it wasn't covered by the HGS CDs. Rod Whale subsequently posted in the chat that Hyde records were available at Hampshire Archives from 1856.
- (d) Items for Disposal: April Wood Ashton asked if there was a list of items for disposal. Chris reiterated that a list of counties was published in the Journal and she was forwarding items as they were requested. Both April and John Dymott were interested in Kent. Chris confirmed that nothing would actually be thrown away.
- (e) Hybrid Meetings: Don Anderson felt there were potential problems with hybrid meetings and that it would be useful to know the pitfalls and how to avoid them. Nick has been working with the Open University (OU) regarding protocols and trouble-shooting and undertook to provide some information.

Action: Nick Barratt

John Dymott is a member of the East Dorset Group of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society, and said that the acoustics of the room being used could be a problem. Nick advised that sound dampening technology was available to provide enough speaker volume. However, some venues may not be set up for hybrid purposes and the right blend of facilities would be required.

Gwen Newland, as the HGS representative with the Family History Federation, reported that the Federation is also looking into hybrid meetings and she will promulgate any advice. Some groups may have attendees with technical know-how and others would not so this could also limit the scope. Nick suggested that the Society may need to offer broader digital skills and advice, and he would be happy to share free advice from the OU.

11 Date of 2022 Annual General Meeting

Subject to Covid restrictions, this will take place on Saturday 25 June 2022 at the MacDonald Botley Park Hotel.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and again thanked the President, Dr Nick Barratt. He also thanked Gwen Newland and Jane Painter for doing the administration for the AGM, and all those who helped out with the Society. (*Post-meeting note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman realised he had omitted to thank Angela Winteridge for taking the minutes, and wished this to be added to the record.*)

The AGM closed at 12.05.