

DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the fifty fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 9 June 2018 at 11.00 a.m. at County Hall, Durham.

1 In attendance

Pat Atkinson, John Banham, Douglas Burdon, Jennifer Gill, Alan Heesom, Christine Kroebe, Chris Ludbrook, Dorothy Meade, Margaret McCollum, Naill Oddy, Alan Pallister, Marie Therese Pinder, Raymond Race, Win Stokes, Geoff Wallis.

Apologies for absence

Margaret Armstrong, Brenda Flynn, Tim Griffiths, Marian Morrison, Elizabeth Newby, Michael Robson, Jane Watkinson.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the fifty third AGM, previously circulated, were adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair (Dr. Stokes).

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Report of Council 2017/18

Dr Banham presented the Council's report and summarised the Council meeting which had been held on 24 May (after the AGM papers had been prepared). The result of the County Council's bid for Lottery Funding for a Durham History Centre at Mount Oswald was still awaited. Progress had been made on consulting Members about the Society's responsibilities under the new General Data Protection Regulations with 56 members consenting to be contacted by e-mail. However, a further 50 or more members have not replied. These results reflect the Council's concern about membership numbers falling and members not updating their subscriptions. As set out in the April Newsletter, action is being taken to address this.

5 Talks Programme

Miss Gill said that three talks had been arranged for the autumn:

8 September: Dr Debbie Smith

James Losh's Diaries – what they tell us about weather and life in early nineteenth century Newcastle

6 October: David Butler

Turnpike Trustee Tantrums – the West Auckland to Darlington Turnpike in the 1780s

10 November: John Banham

Behind the lines film – a Great War nurse and the fight for survival.

The dates for talks in 2019 were as follows: 16 March, 13 April, 11 May, 14 September, 12 October and 9 November and progress was being made on agreeing speakers.

6 Report on Publications

Dr Banham said that the *Seaside Trains* book would be going to print shortly and that the Council had agreed to it being launched by the author at Head of Steam, Darlington, on 17 November.

7 Report on Journal

Dr Stokes said that Journal 82 had been published in March and that the focus on County Durham's had been well received. There would be no special theme for Journal 83 and she urged members to come forward with articles or reviews. On the issue of reviews, Mr Heesom suggested that, in view of the fall off in publishers sending out copies for review, consideration should be given to buying copies of relevant books so that they were available to review. There was agreement to this and the Treasurer was authorised to reimburse for such purchases.

8 Election of Council Members,

Dr Banham reported that the current members of Council were again all standing for re-election. The following were duly elected as Council members: *Mrs P Atkinson, Dr J Banham, Dr D Burdon, Miss J Gill, Mr R Hird, Mrs C Ludbrook, Miss M McCollum, Mr P Mussett, Mrs M-T Pinder, Mr R Race, Mr M Robson, Dr W Stokes & Mr G Wallis.*

9 Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2017/2018

Mr Wallis tabled the Accounts and Balance Sheet, which had been audited by Mrs J Garnett. The accounts were approved by the meeting. Mr Wallis said that he had looked at the possibility of investing money in an interest-bearing account but that interest rates for charities such as ours were too low to make it worthwhile.

10 St. Mary-le-Bow Trust

Miss McCollum and Dr. Banham were re-appointed as the Society's representatives on the St. Mary-le-Bow Trust.

11 Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting was concluded at 11.48 am.