

British Association of Paper Historians

Minutes of the Thirty-Third Annual General Meeting held in the Saloon Meeting Room, Madingley Hall, Cambridgeshire, 30th September 2022 at 1803hrs

1. Members / Guests present:

Steve Allen, Peter Bower (President), Irene Campden, Daven Chamberlain (Chamberlain), Phil Crockett (Treasurer), Richard Donkin, Barbara Dye, Ian Dye, Jane Giscombe, Miquel Guitiérrez-Poch, Colin Harris, Colin Hooper, Penny Jenkins, Rod Morley, Neil Robertson, Mike Stanyon, Barbara Venables (Secretary), Anne Willitts, Riq Willitts

1.1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Kieren Berry, Evelyn Jardine, Ewen Jardine, Geof Nuttall, Hugh Stirk, Jean Stirk

2. Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting 10th Oct. 2021, Oakhill Hotel, Derbyshire

The Minutes of the thirty-second AGM had been circulated previously. No amendments were noted. There were no matters arising.

Vote to accept minutes as a true representation of the meeting:

Proposer: Irene Campden. Seconder: Rod Morley. Vote: carried unanimously.

3. Chairman's report

3.1 The Chairman's report was presented in printed format before the meeting. (Report appended to these Minutes).

4. Treasurer's report

4.1 A copy is attached to these minutes. We have posted a true surplus for the year of £1914 (against a true loss the previous year of £2502).

4.2 Individual membership has remained reasonably constant. Corporate membership is down.

4.3 Despite the prospects of increased costs in the coming year due to the high inflation rate, given our current positive balance we are not looking to increase membership subscription rates for the year 2023/24. Obviously we will keep this under review for the coming years.

Vote to accept the report as a true representation of our financial trading over the year:

Proposer: Penny Jenkins. Seconder: Barbara Dye. Vote: carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers & Committee

The following Officers were elected to Committee:

Chairman: Daven Chamberlain

Proposer: Phil Crockett. Seconder: Peter Bower. Vote: carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Phil Crockett

Proposer: Daven Chamberlain. Seconder: Mike Stanyon. Vote: carried unanimously.

Secretary: Barbara Venables

Proposer: Neil Robertson. Seconder: Jane Giscombe. Vote: carried unanimously.

The following members were re-elected to the Committee: Peter Bower, Irene Campden, Rod Morley and Jean Stirk:

Proposer: Colin Harris.

Seconder: Ian Dye.

Vote: carried unanimously.

Members were reminded that we now hold all committee meetings via zoom; a change prompted by COVID-19. Although we miss holding the in-person meetings, remote working is much quicker and more time efficient (and since we are all self-supporting, much cheaper as well). It also has the benefit of allowing interested parties from anywhere in the country (or world) to join the committee. So now geographical location is no impediment to joining the committee, and nor is time, because meetings tend to last only an hour or so, every quarter. Hence, we invite anyone interested in joining the committee to make themselves known.

6. Appointment of Examiner

Neil Robertson stated that he was willing to re-stand as Examiner.

Proposer: Ian Dye.

Seconder: Rod Morley.

Vote: carried unanimously.

Those present were unanimous in thanking Neil for having acted as Examiner for very many years.

7. Update to BAPH Constitution

The current constitution dates from 2002. Prompted by actions undertaken during the first COVID-19 lockdown, Daven Chamberlain was tasked with looking at the text and seeing whether any changes should be made. He produced four suggestions, which were voted upon as follows:

Section 4a (Organisation) Suggestion – remove the position of Vice-Chairman (which has not been filled for many years) and reduce the stipulation that, in addition to the named positions, the committee must contain a minimum of four other members.

Original: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Management Committee. The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than four (4) other members.

Change to: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Management Committee. The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and no fewer than two (2) other members.

Agreed

Proposer: Richard Donkin.

Seconder: Neil Robertson. Vote: carried unanimously.

Section 5 (Officers) Suggestion – remove the position of Vice-Chairman.

Original: The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They must all be members or, in the case of Corporate members, nominated representatives.

Change to: The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They must all be members or, in the case of Corporate members, nominated representatives.

Agreed

Proposer: Barbara Venables. Second: Phil Crockett. Vote: carried unanimously.

Section 7a (AGM) Suggestion – Add the ability to undertake an AGM by remote means rather than in-person (which is what we had to do in 2020 due to lockdown).

Original: The Annual General Meeting shall be held, at a place chosen by the Committee, preferably during the annual conference, not later than nine (9) months after the end of the financial year. Members shall be given not less than six (6) weeks' notice of the date of the meeting.

Change to: The Annual General Meeting shall be held, at a place chosen by the Committee, preferably during the annual conference, not later than nine (9) months after the end of the financial year. Members shall be given not less than six (6) weeks' notice of the date of the meeting.

- i. In exceptional circumstances, where a physical meeting cannot take place, the Committee may transact business using remote methods, to include (though not exclusively) communication with the membership by post and/or by using digital methods such as email or video conferencing services.
- ii. A physical meeting should always be the preferred method by which an Annual General Meeting shall be held.

Agreed

Proposer: Rod Morley. Second: Irene Campden. Vote: carried unanimously.

Section 7e (AGM) Suggestion – add to the stipulation of what constitutes a quorum that this number refers to remote in addition to in-person meetings.

Original: A quorum for a General Meeting shall be ten (10) members.

Change to: A quorum for a General Meeting held in person or by video conferencing service shall be ten (10) members.

- i. If a formal meeting is not held, and communication is instead performed by email and/or letter, which by default should encompass the whole of the membership, it shall be deemed that the criterion for a quorum has been met automatically

Agreed

Proposer: Barbara Venables. Second: Phil Crockett. Vote: carried unanimously.

Ian Dye noted that the stipulations for a remote AGM should also apply to a remote EGM. Rather than produce a series of words reflecting this change during the current AGM, the Chairman agreed to take this suggestion away and bring back the new wording at the 2023 AGM.

Action: Daven Chamberlain

8. Conference BAPH 2023

The Chairman noted that at present no decision had been made as to the venue for a conference next year. However there is one in mind, and Peter Bower is pursuing this at present, but is not in a position to give further details yet. It is anticipated that it will take

place in late September or early October, and details will be issued to members as soon as they become available.

Barbara Venables noted that we also have an option to revisit Chester, certainly going to the Cathedral, and if the new mill being built on the Shotton Mill site by Eren Papers is ready, that could constitute a possible visit. It was suggested by Daven Chamberlain that the mill would not be ready until 2024, so all being well this option might be re-visited at the next AGM in 2023, when the situation at Shotton will be clearer.

9. Future day meetings and visits 2023

9.1 As yet nothing is planned because many sites are still not open properly, or are limiting numbers during visits. As and when we have offers for visits we will communicate via email, the website, Facebook and, if in time for publication, *The NEWS*.

9.2 Spring Meeting, St Bride Institute, is booked for 1 March 2023.

10. Any other business

10.1 Phil Crocket noted a problem with the payments section of the new website. Apparently it does not work properly with Apple computers, but seems to have no problems with those using Microsoft Windows. Terry Wells is working to try and understand the problem.

10.2 Neil Robertson noted that for several years BAPH has been building reserves and is currently cash rich. Therefore he suggested ring-fencing some of this money for initiatives to generate new membership. In particular he suggested an essay competition, open to non-members, with a cash prize (amount as yet unspecified) which might yield both material for publication in *The Quarterly*, and new interest in the Association.

Daven Chamberlain then gave a candid account of BAPH publication finances, noting that the only publications produced so far that covered their costs are Monographs series Sweetapple, John Smith, Silver Lining, 1866 Directory, and Studies series Simmons and 18th Century Papermaking. (Simmons only covered costs because of a grant to help its publication.) Therefore, part of the reason that we maintain a reasonable amount of cash is to allow us to publish more books.

That said, it was agreed that the Committee take away the idea of an essay prize from the AGM and discuss it at a future meeting, to decide whether it, or some other way of attracting new members, should be pursued.

Action: Committee

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1903hrs.

Daven Chamberlain

Acting AGM Minutes Secretary

5 October 2022