

Midland Ancestors

MINUTES OF THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021

PRESENT: The President and 75 members attending online. We received two postal votes.

Before the start of the meeting Dr Chris Leigh, President, welcomed everyone to this historical event. He said that Fred Markwell, who was one of the founding members of the Society back in 1963, would never have envisaged that we would be holding the AGM on Zoom, over the Internet and be able viewing censuses, etc. on our own computers. He also thanked Phil Lamb for all his hard work in making this evening happen.

- APOLOGIES:** Mike Sharpe, Sue McAllister, Robert Savage, Ann Giblin, John Butler, Carol Kipps, Pat Hammersley
- MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM:**
The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1 May 2019 available as pdf downloaded from website and were taken as read.

Proposer: Clive Hall	Seconder: Pauline Pedersen
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Voting: 52 votes to accept and 8 to abstain and none to reject.

No matters arising from the last AGM.

- PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT** - General Secretary (Available on the website)
These were accepted by all those present.
- PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL REPORT** - Treasurer (Available on the website)

The President drew attention to the fact that the accounts were scrutinized by the Trustees, and they then go to the Charity Commission who will also scrutinize the accounts. The accounts are also examined by a firm of Accountants who are independent to the Society.

Proposer: Chris Leigh	Seconder: Dave Kerr
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Voting: 95% of those present accepted the accounts and financial report. 5% abstained.

5. Election of Officers (Taken en bloc)

Retiring and offering themselves for a further 1 year term	
Phil Lamb	Chairman
Penny Smith	Vice Chair – (Genealogy)
Adrian de Redman	Vice Chair – (Heraldry)
Proposer: Chris Leigh	Seconder: Jackie Cotterill

Voting: 100% in favour.

6. a. Election of Executive Committee Positions

Offering themselves for a three year term:	
Linda Beilby (having retired at 3 years)	Anthony Joseph (having retired at 3 years)
Dave Kerr (Previously co-opted)	Phil Lamb (having retired at 3 years)
Adrian de Redman (having retired at 3 years)	Mike Sharpe (Previously co-opted)
Penny Smith (having retired at 3 years)	
Proposer: Chris Leigh	Seconder: Ivan Williams

Voting: 100% in favour.

b. New Members

None

7. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT UPDATES TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The Motion being –

To update the Constitution, to add and/or delete, those words and/or phrases, clauses and sub-clauses indicated in red as shown on the proposal (downloadable) from the Members Area of the Midland Ancestors website.

Reasons as to why the Constitution requires updating -

When CV19 came into our lives it meant that to survive the society was required to grips with virtual meetings. That in turn highlighted some deficiencies in the Constitution because it does not properly reflect our charitable status or how we conduct our general business in the 21st century.

There are only few alterations required to it, most changes are additions, clarifications to bring the Constitution into line with how the society already operates. It is not about redefining what we do or what our purpose is. But if we do not change the Constitution then the question can be asked, should we continue with those things that are not in accord with it. It is for these reasons that the Constitution requires updating.

As recommended by the Trustees, the resolution is that the amended constitution should be adopted.

Proposer: Phil Lamb	Seconder: Jackie Cotterill
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Voting: 98% accepted the changes. 2% abstained.

8. FRED MARKWELL AWARD

In recognition of Fred. Markwell, who did a great deal for the Society, an award in his name is given each year to a volunteer who the Trustees felt that had made a significant contribution to the Society in some way.

This year the Trustees had decided to give the award jointly to Deryn and Tom Hawkes who, for the last 20 years have diligently worked as Editor and Editor's Assistant for the Midland Ancestor journal. They have been unflinching in their enthusiasm and hard work in publishing a first-class journal.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Phil drew attention to the three online talks that were coming up in May.

Firstly there was the talk given by Bromsgrove on 11 May entitled Goose Grease and Brown Paper given by speaker Kath Reynolds.

Secondly, Kenilworth are presenting Alan Godfrey who will be talking about The Blind Postmaster General and the Suffragist on 12 May.

Thirdly, Birmingham will be presenting 'Using DNA Testing to trace your family tree' given by Karen Evans on 19 May.

Full details of these talks and how to join are available on the Society's website under Events.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.