



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for 2023 HELD ON THE 9th OCTOBER, 2024.

Present: Duncan J.Anderson, Jill Barrett, John Barrett, Christine Barrow, Neil Barrow, Charles Baumann, G.Bayley, Oliver D.H.Benson, Eileen Bentley, John Binns, David Bradbury, Lesley Brown, Elaine Buckley, Mike Buckley, Jennifer Clark, Julia Dawson, Christine Drummond, Lee Evans, Michael Fox, Kate Gartside, Helen Lennie, Lily Hopkinson, John McCarthy, Mary Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Mike Smith, Sue Smith, Paul G.Stevenson, Paul Taylor, Andrew Thorne, Ann Thorne, Graham H.J.Tibbot, Ken Waddington, Richard Wallis, Steve Whitehead, Phil Wild.

Apologies. Received from Revd.Godfrey Adams, Lena Clossam, John Curnow, Ivan Foster, Bishop Rupert and Ghesina Hoare, John Hodges, Robert McCracken, Judith Shaw.

MINUTES. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 8th October 2023 was proposed by Oliver Benson, seconded by Charles Baumann and carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

See attached sheet.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Ivan Foster could not attend the meeting but his written report was circulated for members. He reported a challenging year, the main income being from subscriptions and sale of publications.

Unfortunately, there were at least 70 members who have not yet renewed their subscription for 2024.

Ivan thanked Mary Rodgers for assisting him in paying in monies; Meg Langton for dealing with publication sales; Donald Feber the Society's Auditor for his meticulous

inspection of the accounts and finally the local members who hand deliver the Bulletins which saves the Society a considerable amount in postage.

The Chairman pointed out that the Society was solvent and that the Holly Bank refurbishment and the SHS Charity were in two separate bank accounts.

Phill Wild queried when the loans on Holly Bank would need to be repaid.

Michael Fox (Chairman) couldn't give a definitive answer at this point but would get clarification on the timing and circumstances of repayment. He apologised for the vague response, but couldn't be more positive without first referring to the Treasurer and other Trustees. Michael Fox asked Mr. Wild what, if any, specific concerns had prompted him to ask the question. Mr. Wild responded that his main concern was that he could not see any evidence in the accounts as presented, that the Society possessed sufficient assets to repay the loans.

Michael Buckley, Society Trustee, pointed out, one of the difficulties facing the Society is Conveying the property from the Donor to the Society. Currently we are working with our second firm of Solicitors, who we believe have all the documentation required and despite regular requests from the Society still have not been able to complete the business. Once the Conveyance has been completed, the value of the building, which will be in the region of £200,000, will cover any issues of repaying the loans.

Neil Barrow asked if the loan was from a Society member.

Mr. Buckley confirmed there are anonymous loans from Society members.

Mr. Barrow then asked if the £30,000 in loans was ring-fenced for Holly Bank.

Mr. Buckley confirmed that it was. The Society has two bank accounts – a Holly Bank Account and a Society Account and the two are completely separate with two separate account numbers. Members will recall that when the decision to go ahead with Holly Bank was taken in 2019, we did not wish to put the Society at any financial risk due to the Holly Bank project, therefore, two separate accounts were established.

Mr. Barrow asked how the separation between the two accounts, Holly Bank and the Society in general is managed and recorded?

Mr. Buckley responded that only Ivan Foster, the Treasurer, could answer that and unfortunately he was not present.

Mr. Fox added that we could clarify the situation with the Treasurer, who, although not present this evening is very much in contact with members of the committee on a daily basis – if that would be acceptable.

Mr. Barrow then assumed that the Accounts would have to be submitted to the Charity Commission and he thought they (CC) would find it very difficult to accept them as they stand. He thought it would be helpful if he, a retired accountant and anyone

else, raise their concerns with the Trustees because “I think these accounts will not be seen to be acceptable to the Charity Commission”.

Robert Rodgers drew attention to the bottom of page 3 of the Accounts, where is specifically says, in bold print – “Holly Bank (ring-fenced) £14,514”; and further up on the same page under Current Assets it has the same figure, obviously that amount is ring-fenced for Holly Bank.

Lily Hopkinson pointed out that the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 were both accepted by the Charity Commission without any problem or comment and they were in the exact same layout as these current ones.

Mr.Barrow – it’s not the layout, it’s the content.

Mrs.Hopkinson – the content, ie figures were obviously taken from the 2022 accounts which were laid out in the same format that they have been for the past several years without ever being queried at all.

Mr.Barrow. What I’m saying is that these accounts don’t meet the standard.

In response to Mr.Barrow’s suggestion that further discussion be deferred, Mr.Fox said the points raised will be explored after the meeting.

Ann Thorne asked for clarification on a small point in the Accounts. The opening stock is given as £1,783 but the closing stock states £2,710. Also on page 3 Virgin money (26), Virgin Money (395) and PayPal – are these actual bank accounts because PayPal isn’t a bank.

Mr. Buckley explained the Society has three Accounts, the main Society Account, the Holly Bank Account (being with Virgin Money) and a PayPal account. The PayPal account is mainly for members’ payment of subscriptions and publications. The money in PayPal is moved into the Society’s bank account at regular intervals.

Mrs. Thorne. It’s very difficult for you without the Treasurer. Perhaps we could have another look when it has been clarified a little more with the Treasurer.

Mr.Fox. Agreed with the suggestion, commenting that certain topics had been identified and certainly discussions on them will take place in due course. It will be necessary to leave approval of the Accounts to a later date when questions raised at this meeting have been resolved.

Mrs.Rodgers. Ivan was hoping to attend this meeting but obviously something has prevented him attending. It would have been helpful had he been here.

AUDITOR’S REPORT.

Mr.Fox. This has been covered in the foregoing item. I am not clear if our Auditor, Donald Feber is prepared to stand again.

Mrs.Rodgers. Asserted that she was in touch with Mr.Feber, a retired Bank Manager, and she agreed to ask him.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

Mr.Fox. The existing 8 Trustees are - Michael Fox, Michael Buckley, Graham Griffiths, Ken Waddington, Robert McCracken, Lesley Brown, Christine Barrow and Mary Rodgers, all are prepared to stand again. It was proposed by Graham Tibbot, seconded by Ann Thorne and carried unanimously that the 8 named be re-elected as Trustees for 2025.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

A question was asked why there were never any posters on the Museum, nor the approaches advertising this Society's events. As the ex-Publicity Secretary, Charles Baumann explained that the Museum's policy was to display notices in the shop but not on the exterior of the building. He agreed the publicity at the Museum was not good, posters to into a folder at the rear of the reception area. He agreed that this problem needs addressing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.34.pm

.....

Chairman.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Receipts & Payments for year ending 31st December 2024

Receipts	£
Membership fees	4,236
Gift aid	nil
Publication sales	645
Programme	730
Donations	274
Miscellaneous	972
Bank interest	nil
	<u>6,857</u>
Payments	
Programme	375
Publication costs Bulletin	3,068
Society memberships	180
Museum	1,223
Administration	151
Archives	nil
Miscellaneous	833
Assets bought	nil
	<u>5,830</u>
Surplus for the year	1,027
Holly Bank	
Donations SHS	7,614
less expenditure	-7,512
Donations Holly Bank	20,632
less expenditure	-22,223
Deficit	1,489
Total Deficit	<u>462</u>

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Income & Expenses for year ending 31st December 2024

Income			£
Membership fees			4,236
Gift Aid			635
Publications			
Sales		645	
Opening stock	2,710		
+ Purchases	nil		
- Closing stock	2,474		[3]
Cost of sales		236	
Profit on publications			409
Programme			730
Donations			274
Miscellaneous			972
Interest			nil
		Total	<u>7,256</u>
Expenses			
Programme			375
Bulletin			3,068
Society memberships			180
Museum			1,223
Administration			151
Archives			nil
Miscellaneous			833
Depreciation of equipment			nil
		Total	<u>5,830</u>
Profit for year			1,426
less Holly Bank expenses	354		
Profit transferred to Balance sheet			<u>1,072</u>

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

			Notes
Fixed Assets			
		£	
Equipment & Artefacts		9,962	
Additions during year		<u>nil</u>	
		<u>9,962</u>	
Less depreciation charged to 2023		9,962	
Depreciation charged this year		nil	
Book value of assets		nil	[1]
Holly Bank			[2]
Acquisition at value	150,000		
additions to 2023	23,573		
additions in 2024	29,735		
Value at 31/12/2024		203,309	
Current Assets			
Stock of publications at end of year		2,474	[3]
Debtors		1,247	[4]
Bank accounts	SHS	11,113	
	Holly Bank	24,166	
		35,279	
		<u>242,309</u>	
Funded by			
Accumulated Fund			
Balance at start of this year	19,836		
add Profit for this year	1,072		
Balance at end of the year	20,908		
Holly Bank Reserve			
Balance at start of the year	157,155		
Funds added	28,246		
Creditors			[5]
Holly Bank loans end 2023	30,000		
less repaid	-10,000		
added 2024	16,000	36,000	
		<u>242,309</u>	

Notes

1 The principle equipments owned by the Society are the slide projector, digital projector, A3 scanner and the archive shelving. These all have a foreseeable working life but, as the Society has to fund itself year on year, we have adopted the prudent policy of writing them off in the year of purchase.

The principle artefacts owned by the Society are the Gartside bust and the Platt cup.

2 Holly Bank: the ownership of Holly Bank was raised & minuted at the previous AGM. Finalising & documenting the legal processes has still not been completed.

3 The stock of publications consists of is the recent publications, principally *William Pownall's Uppermill & Mapping Saddleworth I & II*. Earlier publications are held in the accounts at nil value.

4 Debtors represent provision for Gift Aid not yet received for the years 2023-2024. Additionally there is likely to be a back claim for Holly Bank donations.

5 Creditors

Loans of £20,000 and £16,000 are unsecured, have no fixed repayment date & do not pay interest. A loan of £10,00 was repaid during the year.

Future commitments for Holly Bank. There are no contractual obligations which are not covered by existing funds.

6 The Accounts have been prepared using information provided. The separation of Society activities & the Holly Bank project is not always clear. A substantial bequest to the Society was paid into the Holly Bank account.