

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes of the annual meeting held at the Chairman's House, Taunton, on Saturday 10 October 2020

Members had been informed before the meeting that no more than 6 members were permitted to gather indoors but members could attend by accepting a Meeting Invitation to attend virtually via a video platform. Two were present at the meeting and three more were in virtual attendance. Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Browning, Tom Down and Michael Pulvermacher.

The meeting focussed on the formal business of the Society. There was no talk on a historical topic after and guests were not invited. Robert Dunning was re-elected as chairman and welcomed all to the annual meeting. He then moved that minutes of the annual meeting, held in the Wiveliscombe Community Centre, Wiveliscombe, on Saturday, 12 October 2019, which had been circulated before the meeting be approved, which was seconded by Adrian Webb and carried nem. con.

The Annual Report of Council for 2019/20 and the Hon General Editor's Report including the Chairman's update on that report had also been circulated before the meeting. This year's timetable for the preparation and publication of volumes was disrupted by the current covid-19 virus pandemic but two volumes were at the printers: Volume 99, *Somerset Recipes and Remedies in the 17th and 18th centuries*, ed. Andrew F. Butcher and Volume 100, *Somerset Records: Past, Present, and Future*, ed. Andrew F. Butcher and Robert W. Dunning. Further and forthcoming volumes were *Bath & Wells Ordinations, 1465-1526*, ed. Robert W. Dunning; *The Commonplace Book of John Walker, c. 1640*, ed. Esther Hoyle, *The Ashe Ledgers, 1631-66*, ed. John Gaisford, *Somerset's Loyalties on the eve of Civil War: Episcopacy, Petitioners, Royalists and Ireland, 1638-42*, ed. Adrian J. Webb & Sue Berry (provisional) and *The Manorial Court Rolls of West Somerset, c. 1250-1550*, ed. Andrew F. Butcher.

The accounts for 2019 together with the Hon. Treasurer's Report had been attached to the notice of the annual meeting sent to all members and were adopted nem con. Robert Dunning reported that the Independent Examiner, for whose appointment Council is responsible, had published his report, dated 22 September 2020, which noted the accounts for 2019 showed a deficit for the year of £4,270.10. The Independent Examiner had confirmed that the statement of account is in agreement with the supplied documents and concluded that the statement presents a true and accurate record of the Society's finances. David Victor then stood in to take questions on behalf of the Treasurer.

Andrew Butcher, Peter Fleming and Frances Neale retired from Council by rotation and were eligible for re-election. The Hon. Secretary noted that no further names had been put forward. The Chairman proposed that the retiring trustees be re-elected, and this was seconded by Dr Webb and carried nem. con. A further vacancy remained in the 12 members elected to Council, following the re-election of Adrian Webb and David Bromwich in 2019 and the appointment of Mr Victor. The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting the Hon. General Editor had identified a suitable candidate and the Chairman will liaise with the General Editor on this.

The Chairman noted in 2019 that the Society was looking for volunteers to assume a responsibility for marketing and a website manager. He was pleased to thank Emma Down for agreeing to assume the role of website manager and thanked her for her work in bringing the Society's website into existence and to Mr Victor for agreeing to assume the role of marketing manager (and membership secretary).

Under other business it was put to the meeting that in 2021 the Society should meet twice. Firstly, at a public meeting in May or June 2021, to coincide with the next meeting of Council, which would be the setting for talks on topics associated with volume 99. Secondly, a public meeting on 9 October 2020, to coincide with the next AGM on the second Saturday of that month) which would

be a setting for talks on topics associated with volume 100. The first volume has as its focus 17th and early 18th century descriptions of medical and culinary recipes and remedies collected together by Elizabeth Clarke of Chipley Park, so a suitable venue might be found in Wellington (a locality 2¼ miles SE of Chipley). The second volume has as its focus Somerset Records, including a 'Wells' Receiver's Account, 1280-90, so a suitable venue might be in Wells. The Secretary was asked to formulate proposals for consideration by Council.

There was also discussion about items other than the volumes referred to in the Hon General Editor's report. These being (1) an occasional series of essays under the Society's sponsorship, entitled 'Studies in Somerset History'; (2) an occasional series concerned with 'Introductions to Somerset Records'; and (3) improvements to the Society's website.