

Minutes of the OAHS AGM
Held at The Corn Exchange, Witney.
8th June 2019 at 12.45 pm
(Registered Charity No. 259055)

The President, Geoffrey Tyack, took the chair. 18 members were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 4 members.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted and passed without correction.

Proposed: David Clark, Seconded Peter Steere.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers reports

- a) Peter Steere apologised for ongoing problems with the website, including broken PayPal links. Work on the updated site are nearing completion, but dealing with the program language of the old version has made transferring features difficult. A trial version of the new website is running on the OAHS stand for members to see and try. It should go live very soon.

4. Finance

- a) Report of Hon. Treasurer

The shortfall of £3,704.23 for 2018 resulted from two factors: late payments from creditors and the cost of Oxoniensia. The journal takes up most of the subscription income, leaving little to fund other activities. Overall the assets remain healthy, at just over £100,000. The accounts show a lower figure because accounting convention requires assets to be recorded at their purchase price.

- b) Adoption of accounts and balance sheet.

The accounts were commended to the Society and were adopted.

Proposed: Simon Townley, Seconded: Mary Lale.

- c) Appointment of Examiners

The Treasurer would like to change the Examiner, as he has found the existing company expensive and not as careful as he expected. He would like to propose Chapman, Robinson and Moore, subject to approval of the AGM and Committee.

Proposed: Roger Ainslie, Seconded: Ivor Spackman

6. Subscription Increase

- a) The President outlined a number of reasons why an increase had been proposed:

- i) the increasing cost of producing Oxoniensia, with the funding basis becoming more uncertain;
- ii) the cost of producing and maintaining the new website;

iii) the aim of improving the quality of the Newsletter;
iv) new arrangements for the Library. This is currently housed, badly, at the Sackler Library and is inaccessible to most members. The Sackler would like it to be removed. A search for a new location is proving difficult, but is ongoing. It may require some funds to provide shelving etc.

It would be possible to put the Newsletter online in the future, but a sizeable proportion of members do not appear to use digital platforms and a hard copy version would still be required. The rise was substantial, but the increased subscription was seen as good value by some present. The means of access to the library would need to be worked out, but this might require proof of membership of OAHS and hence membership cards might need to be introduced and paid for. The size of the increase was large, but a series of smaller increases over time is very time consuming, requiring changes in Standing Orders. The current assets provide an income and reducing them was not seen as viable in the long term.

That subscription levels be increased in line with those published in the Agenda:

Proposed: Peter Steere, Seconded Ivor Spackman

For: 13 Against: 1 Abstentions: 4

The proposal was carried.

7. Election of Officers

a) All existing Committee members were all prepared to restand.
These officers were approved by the meeting.

8. Any other business

- a) Becky Peacock, Oxfordshire Past Organiser, said that the society was seeking a partner society for the 2020 event. Societies are involved in finding venues, identifying a speaker on a local topic, provision of refreshments etc. They share in any profit.
b) Geoffrey Tyack thanked the Committee for their work and support.

The meeting closed at 13.10 pm.