

NORTH MARSTON HISTORY CLUB

DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM

12TH JANUARY 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the NMHC was held virtually by “ZOOM” on 12th January 2022

PRESENT: John Spargo, Sue Chaplin, David Bayly, Jennifer Heffer, Rosemary Morton, Janet Gowin, Jayne Springer, Elizabeth Crocker, Tricia McSweeney, Val York, Robet Ayres

APOLOGIES: Karen Brookes

AGENDA

1. Welcome John Spargo, Chairman, welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2021 AGM The Minutes of the North Marston History Club AGM 2021 were approved by Rosemary Morton and seconded by Jennifer Heffer.

3. Election of Chairman John Spargo was elected Chairman, nominated by Janet Gowin and seconded by Elizabeth Crocker.

4. Re-election of Club Committee The following elections took place for roles on the NMHC Committee:

Function	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	John Spargo	Janet Gowin	Rosemary Morton
Secretary	Sue Chaplin	*	*
Treasurer	David Bayly	*	*
Membership Secretary	Jennifer Heffer	*	*
Sales Co-ordinator	Janet Gowin	*	*
Archivists	John Spargo Sue Chaplin	*	*
Internet Researcher	Jayne Springer	*	*
Publicity/Distribution	Rosemary Morton	*	*

* These Committee members were nominated, seconded and re-elected on a block vote approved by Robert Ayres and seconded by Val Yorke.

3. Treasurer's Report

The following report was submitted by David Bayly: David Bayly presented the accounts for calendar year 2021 which are currently in draft form as they have not been reviewed by our honorary auditor. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes.

The following points were noted in respect to income. Under "Membership and Donations" a sum of £150.00 is included being a donation from the Parish Council to allow the extending of the History Trail. Income from the sale of "The North Marston Story" and this year's calendars and Christmas cards has been satisfactory.

As regards outgoing payments, £421.56 had been spent on printing a further 25 copies of "The North Marston Story" which will be sold over the next few years. The Christmas calendars and cards cost £645.60 to print and thirty new "Times Remembered" booklets have also been printed for future sales. The expenditure for the Wesley Centre was a result of holding some Executive Committee meetings there and also includes a credit of £25.00 due to the fact that the AGM did not take place as planned at the Wesley Centre.

As at 31st December 2021 the balance in our account was £2935.74 which is down on the equivalent amount at the start of the year (£3405.26). This might suggest a significant reduction in our funds but the following factors need to be borne in mind.

- 1 As at 31st December there were significant amounts of money still to be paid into our account in respect to the sale of calendars and cards. This amounts to somewhere in the region of £300.
- 2 The reprinting of "The North Marston Story" and "Times Remembered" cost over £500.00 and this cost will be recouped from sales over the coming months and years.
- 3 Subscriptions for this year to date are not accounted for in the 2021 accounts and amount to approximately £170.00

It should also be noted that no income was generated in 2021 from the History Club evening talks (raffle etc.) but conversely we did not incur speaker expenses. In addition you will recall subscriptions were suspended in 2021 due to the absence of events.

Bearing all these factors in mind it is felt that there has not been a significant drop in our reserves and we look forward to a more normal year of activities and income. DRAFT ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31st December 2021

Balance b/f	1 st January 2021	£3405.26
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Receipts

Membership and Donations	£213.00
Meetings	£0.00
"North Marston Story" Ed 2	£127.50
Sundry Booklets	£0.00
Calendars and Cards	£703.50
	<u>£1044.00</u>
	£4449.26

Payments

Printing/copying/stationery	£99.88
Meeting expenses	£0.00
“North Marston Story” Ed 2	£421.56
Calendars and Cards	£645.60
Booklets	£83.59
Website	£156.00
Wesley Centre Hire	£85.00
Sundries	£21.89
	<u>£1513.52</u>
Balance c/f	£2935.74

Balance as at 31st December 2021

£2935.74

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Hon. Auditor

Treasurer

4. Chairman's Report

John Spargo gave the following report:

At the risk of repeating my introduction to last year’s AGM Report, 2021 was yet another strange year with the club forced to curtail public gatherings and to concentrate on safer tasks.

As in 2020, we maintained and updated the website (we have lately added the History Snippets from the former parish magazine) produced newsletters and responded to numerous requests for help in searching the history of village families.

Our calendar this year was themed on “The Lost Buildings of North Marston” and sold well. My thanks to the production team of David and Sue, as well as to Janet for spearheading sales.

My own efforts were concentrated on creating the packs of snow-scene Christmas Cards which sold out of its second print run shortly before Christmas. The challenge now is to think of fresh themes for 2022 . We are always open to ideas from club members.

Earlier, I made reference to the former parish magazine. As you will know, the magazine ceased to be printed in 2019 and was produced as a digital magazine from that date. The parish council took the decision to cease producing the digital magazine at the end of 2021 and on my suggestion to disperse the content across three access points: the parish website, the North Marston and Granborough Community Facebook page and the Pew News church newsletter.

For my sins, I am the administrator of the Facebook page which basically looks after the village's news and views. It is a private group and is not for selling items. It is non-political and non-confrontational. It's about the nearest you can get to a village magazine. I urge you to have a look at it. I publish examples of the Village Gallery photographs from time to time (which the History Club inherited from Alan Williams), and of course any information about the History Club and its events. Our schedule of talks will also be promoted on the Facebook page which is currently accessed by over 300 people. This number steadily increases each week. We shall of course continue to email information to club members as well.

This coming year we intend to restart our evening talks and Sue has sent out details of these. We shall also re-start other delayed initiatives such as extending the Heritage Trail, adding a couple of new storyboards to the gallery at the Heritage Centre and continuing with the work already started on creating a war memorial on the outside of the Memorial Hall. Next year sees the centenary of the opening of the Memorial Hall, so a fitting time to achieve this objective.

As ever, I sincerely thank the Club's Executive Committee for all their hard work on your behalf. Although 2021 was another strange year, their commitment has never wavered. David has done a sterling job in his first full year as our Treasurer, as well as providing the hosting for these Zoom meetings and mastering the black arts of on-line calendar production.

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I apologise for introducing a sad note, but it's important to pause and reflect that at the end of 2021, the History Club lost a true friend, Eddie Parsley. Eddie was always keen to help us to sell items at The Shop, and through his efforts, the Club has gained enormously. His cheerful

humour created the ideal public face for The Shop and it is hard to imagine how he can be replaced. Thank you Eddie, we always felt we were in safe hands entrusting our books, cards or calendars to your salesmanship.

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And so, forward into 2022 with whatever “new normal” that brings. The world we know has changed a lot in the last year, and no doubt will continue to change. But one constant is people’s interest in the history of this village, which generates motivation for the Club to keep of the numerous films you can access through our website. Making this film reminded me yet again what an amazing heritage we enjoy in this village, and how rewarding it is to search and still find the evidence all around us. We are fully committed to maintaining and protecting that heritage, come what may. Thank you for your support.

After the conclusion of the Business meeting a film by John Spargo was shown entitled “The Quainton Pilgrims”.

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Sue Chaplin
Secretary to NMHC