

# NORTH MARSTON HISTORY CLUB

## DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM

16TH JANUARY 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the NMHC was held on 16th January 2024.

**PRESENT:** John Spargo, Sue Chaplin, David Bayly, Jennifer Heffer, Rosemary Morton, Janet Gowin, Tricia McSweeney, Tony Franklin, Amy Haynes, Janet Logsdail, Stephen Logsdail, David Midwinter, David Boddy, Sandra Bunyan, Val Newby, Dan Boylan, Lynda Oakes, Jackie Lloyd Jones, Pam Lynch, Helen Oakden, Judy Nagele, Jane Derry, Lionel Hitchings, Liz Crocker, Pete York, Val York, Tony Kelly, Les Penrice, Barbara Fisher

**APOLOGIES:** Cynthia Hall, Jayne Dancer, Tom Dancer, Hilary King, Len King, Gill Hitchings, Jayne Springer, Clive Robinson, Robert Ayres, Jo Ayres

### AGENDA

**1. Welcome** John Spargo, Chairman, welcomed everyone.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM** The Minutes of the North Marston History Club AGM 2023 were approved by Lynda Oakes and seconded by Pete York.

**3. Election of Joint Chairmen** David Bayly and Sue Chaplin were elected as Joint Chairmen, nominated by Rosemary Morton and seconded by Val York.

**4. Confirmation of New Committee Role "Technical and Creative Support"** John Spargo was elected to this role nominated by Stephen Logsdail and seconded by David Midwinter.

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

Function	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
Joint Chairmen	David Bayly Sue Chaplin	Rosemary Morton	Val York
Secretary	Sue Chaplin	*	*
Treasurer	David Bayly	*	*
Technical & Creative Support	John Spargo	Stephen Logsdail David Midwinter	
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 Liz Crocker and seconded by Tricia Mc Sweeney

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

David Bayly gave the following report:

*I think we can say that 2023 has been a very successful year for North Marston History Club with a full programme of talks and a stable financial position.*

*The main costs associated with our meetings are the speakers fee, hire of the Wesley Centre and the cost of publicity flyers and posters. In general the cost of our meetings are covered by membership subscriptions, the raffle and donations for refreshments.*

*In addition to these sources of income this year, additional monies have been received from the sale of five copies of "The North Marston Story" and a few Pilgrim badges and booklets. John has given a number of talks and village tours this year to U3A Groups and together with Sue has spoken to a group of people at Chearsley. These activities have raised further income for the club and we are grateful to both John and Sue for the contributions they have made.*

*The sale of Calendars and Christmas Cards each year also provides significant additional income for the club. This year we have been particularly successful having sold all the Calendars by early December making a profit of approximately £300.*

*You may remember that last year we were awarded a grant of £500.00 from the Buckinghamshire Council Community Board to be used for the scanning of various documents for archiving. Unfortunately due to a number of reasons this was found not to be possible and accordingly this money has been returned to Buckinghamshire Council.*

*Other significant expenditure during the year has included the purchase of a stand-alone amplification system to be used in the Wesley Centre, additional waymarking plaques for properties of historical significance in the village and technical support for our website and Facebook presence.*

*As a way to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the North Marston Memorial Hall, frequently called the Village Hall, we suggested the installation of a plaque at the front of the hall with the names of those who fell the two World Wars. In order to have the names in a suitable size font it has been necessary to have two plaques, the estimated cost of which is over £5000. The NMHC has already paid the foundry a £1500 deposit and approximately £1800 has now been received in donations for which we gratefully thank the many donors. In the last week we have been notified of generous grants from Buckinghamshire Council Community Board and Poor's Piece and Clocklands charity which ensure that this project can go ahead.*

*As reported last year, the closure of TSB branches in our area has made banking operations somewhat more complicated but we now use mobile banking for most of our operations and can pay in cheques at local Post Offices. Although we are now able to pay cheques into our account on the mobile phone app I would encourage members to make direct payment into our bank account via BACS whenever this is possible. Please ensure that your reference identifies what the payment is for.*

*A simple profit and loss account for the calendar year 2023 is attached herewith from which you will see that we have a healthy balance of £3617.36 in our bank account as at 31st*



John Tait  
Hon. Auditor

David Bayly  
Treasurer

#### North Marston History Club Reconciliation 2023

Bank Balance per statement 01.01.23                   £3225.87

Bank balance per statement 31.12.23               £3617.36

Cheques uncashed

0.0

0.0

Income to be banked

0.00

0.00

Reconciled bank balance 31.12.22               3225.87

Diff   391.49

Income   4275.05

Expenditure                                       3883.56

Diff   391.49

Opening Balance                                 3225.87

Closing Balance                                 3617.36

The Treasurer's report and finances were approved by a show of hands.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

John Spargo gave the following report:

*2023 has been a very productive year for the History Club during which we have maintained our schedule of talks and added to our publications list. The calendar sales in the run-up to Christmas were better than expected and we had sold out by early December. Feedback on this particular calendar, "Transport of Delight", was very positive. Many thanks to David*

*Bayly who, in addition to keeping our accounts in order, has become an ace calendar creator.*

*Our links with Chearsley History Society gained momentum and in 2023 both Sue and I gave presentations to their meetings. Our website is clearly a great asset for the Club, and hosts of enquiries, contacts and book orders are routed through this portal. It is always encouraging to hear from people with distant connections to North Marston, sometimes from other continents. We often gain insights, information or additions to our archive through these contacts.*

*And speaking of archives, some of you will remember that the Club was given a grant of £500 towards the end of 2022 with which to create a digital archive of dozens of antique deeds and land sale contracts. As it turned out, we realised this was not a practical idea and we returned the grant to the Winslow & Neighbouring Villages Community Board, and the documents were catalogued and are now safely housed at the County Record Office where they can be viewed by researchers and historians.*

*However, I am pleased to confirm we have just been awarded a grant for £2,500 from the same Board as part of our major fund-raising effort to buy a pair of bronze war memorial plaques, as David mentioned in his report. This will be our main project for 2024 and will be the focal point of future village remembrance services. We thank Neil Tuckett for his assistance in this, as well as MADS, The Shop, The Clocklands and Poors Piece Trust and numerous individuals in the village who have contributed to this objective.*

*This year marks the 14th year of the History Club, and although I remain committed and involved with the Club, my decision to step down as the Chairman will provide opportunities for the club to develop in different ways. I am sure we can rely on your continued support which has always been strong and encouraging.*

*My new role, with its focus on providing technical and creative support to the club, makes good use of my strengths and interests and complements the range of skills and responsibilities inherent within the Executive Committee that you have just voted for.*

*As ever I can't end this, my final Chairman's Report, without acknowledging the huge part played by the Exec Committee, or EC as we know it, in keeping the show on the road. This also includes the little band of distributors who make sure our leaflets and Newsletters get posted through letter boxes around the village. Thank you all for your help on this 14-year journey."*

Val York expressed her thanks to the History Club for all they have done.

After the conclusion of the Business meeting a film by John Spargo was shown entitled "The Chearsley Pilgrims".

Refreshments were served and a raffle was held.

Sue Chaplin  
Secretary to NMHC