

## NORFOLK RECORD SOCIETY

### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM, ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021, AT 7.00pm

#### AGENDA

**1. Welcome**

The president welcomed members to this unusual triennial general meeting, held for the first time ever online via Zoom. He then handed over the conduct of proceedings to the chairman of the council who has had more experience of working in this medium.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from the following vice presidents: Lady Dannatt, the Bishop of Norwich, and Mr Michael Sayer; from Dr Joel Halcomb, member of council; and from the following members: Dr John Barney, Mr Michael Begley, Mr P. Dickson, Rev. Hutton, Lord Leicester, and Mrs Maggie Vaughan-Lewis.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018**

The minutes of the last general meeting had been made available to members on the society website. It was agreed that they should be taken as read and approved as a correct record.

**4. Report of the Council 2018-2021 (Chairman of the Council)**

Professor Carole Rawcliffe presented the council's report on the work of the society over the last three years and on future plans. A copy of the report appears elsewhere in the minute book and is also being made available on the website. There were no questions.

**5. Financial report (Hon. Treasurer)**

The treasurer presented his overview of the society's financial affairs over the previous three years. A copy of the report appears elsewhere in the minute book and is also being made available on the society website. There were no questions.

**6. Adoption of a new constitution for the society (Hon. Secretary)**

The secretary explained that our original Rules, first compiled in 1930 and revised in minor ways since then, did not now comply with current Charity Commission requirements. A new constitution had therefore been produced by a sub-committee of the council, following commission guidelines. Although the document is considerably longer than the original Rules, most of the essentials remain much as before, with further formal provisions having been added as required.

The main changes are that we must in future hold annual, rather than triennial, general meetings, and the chairman will be elected by the members at general meetings and not by the council. The constitution also formally recognises three editors rather than just one as before, and the maximum number of members of council to be elected at general meetings is being reduced from twelve to nine. However, the overall size of the council will remain as before, with the three apparently 'lost' members being accounted for by the directly elected chairman and the two additional editors.

The draft document had been made available to members on the society website and hard copies had been sent to those for whom we do not have email addresses. Comments or objections had been invited in the summer 2021 newsletter, which went

to all members, with the proviso that they should be sent in writing in advance of the general meeting, but none had been received by the secretary. Amendments could not be accepted at the meeting and the document must either be accepted or rejected, in the latter case to be re-considered by the council. A copy had also been sent to the Charity Commission for its comments or further advice, but there had thus far been no response.

The secretary proposed the adoption of the constitution by the members, the proposal being seconded by Mr John Trevelyan. In an online vote this was formally confirmed by the members *nemine contradicente*.

#### **7. Election of President and Vice Presidents**

Sir Richard Jewson was proposed for re-election as president of the society.

The remaining vice presidents had all been approached as to whether they were happy to be re-elected and none had indicated a desire to stand down. It was therefore proposed that the following vice presidents be re-elected:

Sir Timothy Colman, Lady Dannatt, Marquess Townshend of Raynham, the Bishop of Norwich, Sir Nicholas Bacon, Sir Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, Mr Michael Sayer.

In addition, it was proposed that Professor Richard Wilson, former modern editor and chairman, who is standing down as a member of council, should be elected as a vice president.

These elections were proposed by Mr Charles Farrow and seconded by Dr Robert Wood. In an online vote the elections were confirmed by the members *nem. con.*

#### **8. Election of Officers – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editors**

The following officers were proposed for re-election:

Chairman:	Professor Carole Rawcliffe
Secretary:	Dr Alan Metters
Treasurer:	Mr Kristopher Harper
Editors:	Mrs Elizabeth Rutledge (Medieval)
	Dr Jean Agnew (Early Modern)
	Professor Anthony Howe (Modern)

Proposed by Mr Charles Farrow and seconded by Dr Robert Wood. In an online vote the re-elections were confirmed by the members *nem. con.*

#### **9. Election of members of Council (under the new constitution up to nine ordinary members of Council are to be elected at each general meeting)**

Dr Elizabeth Griffiths had died since the last general meeting and Dr John Barney had stood down. Dr Eliza Hartrich had been co-opted by the council to fill one of these vacancies. Mr Michael Begley and Professor Richard Wilson had also indicated that they would not seek re-election as members of council.

The following continuing members offered themselves for re-election *en bloc*:  
Dr John Alban, Mr Charles Farrow, Dr Isla Fay, Dr Joel Halcomb, Mr Patrick Palgrave-Moore, Mr Peter Stibbons, Mr Gary Tuson.

Dr Eliza Hartrich's formal election to council at this meeting was also proposed.

Proposed by Professor Anthony Howe, and seconded by Professor Carole Rawcliffe. In an online vote these elections were confirmed by the members *nem. con.*

**10. Any other business**

Mrs Alicia Howell was confirmed as the society's independent examiner, with thanks for all her sound financial advice and her help in keeping the society's accounts in good order.

After the meeting, at 8.00pm, volume LXXXV was formally launched:

*The Letter-Book of Thomas Baret of Norwich: merchant and textile manufacturer, 1672-1677*, edited by Siobhan Talbott. The volume was introduced in short online lectures by Dr Siobhan Talbott (University of Keele) and Dr Lizzy Spencer (University of York).

GAM  
9/7/21