

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

AGM MINUTES 2021

Minutes of the AGM on Tuesday 17th August 2021 held in Stokesley Town Hall

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present to the first gathering after an 18 month hiatus due to pandemic restrictions and to the first AGM for two years.

Thanks was given to Keith Bell for baking and providing delicious mince pies for all to enjoy with their coffee.

Speaker

The speaker was our fellow member David Milner who presented his talk entitled: "The Life of 18th Century Whitby Sailors".

The talk detailed the discovery, analysis and conservation of the Muster Rolls which recorded the details of all voyages and crews of ships operating out of Whitby. All this work was carried out at the Records Office by a 2-year paid internship and a team of volunteers which included David. The Rolls were discovered in a very dilapidated state at Hospital Houses, Whitby in 1880 and covered 1745 to 1806. There are 7,934 muster rolls of which about 10% were recorded during conservation.

The Rolls were, essentially, an employment and insurance log which were used to record monthly sailors' contributions for injuries and loss of life while on board. The Rolls and a digitised copy are now kept at the Pannet Park Museum in Whitby. The details recorded the voyages of 341 ships trading with 44 destinations and illustrate the severe deprivations and dangers of life at sea during that period.

Some of the many interesting facts drawn from Rolls included:

- James Cook's early career at sea detailed
- Whitby was UK's second largest port at the time
- Main cargoes – alum, timber, leather, later mainly coal
- Whaling products (Bone for corsets and oil for lighting) – highly dangerous voyages
- High rates of injury, sickness, death on board and loss at sea.

In addition to the dangers gleaned from the Rolls, life for the seaman at that time was also subject to being caught by press gangs and being attacked by pirates.

David was thanked for delivering this fascinating talk enjoyed by all.

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AGM MINUTES 2021

Eulogies

The Chairman delivered eulogies for the very sad loss of our friends:

Mike Brabin, Hugh Charman, David Middleton, Fred Logie & Geoff Philips

following which one minute's silence was observed by Members.

Agenda

1. Apologies. There were 25 members present and 13 apologies.

2. Minutes of AGM held Tuesday 16th April 2019

Minutes accepted as a true record of proceedings.

3. Matters arising. None

4. Chairman's AGM Report

The Chairman delivered his Report. Uploaded to website.

5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's AGM Report - Chris Lee

- The Treasurer acknowledged the hard work put in by the Chairman to keep the Club running smoothly and members expressed their thanks.
- Finances are in good shape and have been since the last AGM.
- A membership subscription of £20 was proposed for the remainder of the current year which was accepted by Members.
- After much effort in trying to transfer the Club's bank account to another bank (as requested by Nat West under directive to reduce number of customers), the Treasurer reported that the Club does not qualify at nominated banks. Consequently, the Club will maintain its account with Nat West.

A vote of thanks was held for the Treasurer, Chris Lee, for his excellent stewardship of financial and membership matters.

6. Approval of Income and Expenditure Report for year ending 31 March 2020
Report approved by Members.

7. Approval of Income and Expenditure Report for year ending 31 March 2021
Report approved by Members

8. Speaker Finder's AGM Report - Keith Burton

The Speaker Finder led a vote of thanks to fellow Club Member, David Milner, for stepping in at short notice to present today's talk.

He explained the reasons for the switch in the programme; the decision to hold the meeting was taken with short notice and to avoid the possibility of a guest speaker being embarrassed by a potential low attendance.

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

AGM MINUTES 2021

A vote of thanks was held for the Speaker Finder, Keith Burton, for his continued success in finding interesting and entertaining speakers and his financial prudence in achieving budget targets.

9. Website Manager's Report

David Chalk announced that the revamped website is up and running.

Members can now access calendar of events, details of trips, minutes of meetings, Constitution and reports online.

Any suggestions and comments are welcome.

10. Secretary's Report. There were no matters to report.

11. Constitution

The Chairman explained several minor tweaks to the Constitution and these were accepted by Members. Uploaded to website.

12. Committee Elections

Due to the expiration of tenures and resignations, the following positions on the Committee were subject to election:

Website Manager – only one candidate stood for election, David Chalk who was co-opted onto the Committee in 2021 following the resignation of Stefan Barnes.

David Chalk was elected by the Members present.

Secretary – only one candidate stood for election, John Edwards who was co-opted onto the Committee in 2021 following the resignation of Alan Reed.

John Edwards was elected by the Members present.

General Member – Keith Bell's tenure expired and he stood for a further term. Keith Bell was elected by the Members present.

The Chairman led a vote of thanks to both Stefan Barnes and Alan Reed for their service on the Committee.

13. Committee Members - Tenures

The Chairman presented the current status of Committee Members highlighting details of tenure for the AGM 2022.

14. Any Other Matters. None raised.

15. Next AGM to be held on Tuesday 19th April 2022 - Refreshments from 09:30 for 10:00 start

16. There was insufficient time to hold the Business Meeting. Meeting was therefore postponed until Tuesday 21st September 2021 - Refreshments from 09:30 for 10:00 start

17. The meeting concluded at 11.45am.