

Worthington Family History Society
Council Meeting
31st October 2020, 9pm (UK Time), ZOOM

Attendees: Ian (Chair), Paul, Bill, Sidney, Jan, Hannah (Minute taker)

Apologies: None

1. Welcome & Review Previous Minutes

Jan was welcomed to the Committee.

The membership year has been changed to run from 1st April – 31st March each year.

New emails have been set up for Membership and the Secretary.

Sidney has now sent Hannah copies of previous meeting minutes.

The option of uploading AGM minutes to the website was discussed. It was noted this would be helpful but there are other more pressing priorities.

Paul looked into using Paypal for online payments, but found they would require a sizable admin fee.

2. Update from Treasurer

Paul provided an update on current accounts. As at 30th September 2020, there was nearly £3,400 in the account.

Jan questioned why the book had been taken to the publisher without the funding in place. Paul clarified that the Society did have the funding in place to cover payments even without Philip's contribution.

3. Deputy Treasurer Vacancy

It was noted that Tom Gross will be stepping down from the Deputy Treasurer role because of other personal commitments. Tom has indicated that he could continue the role until the next AGM in April.

Action: Ian to write to Tom to thank him for his contribution in the role.

Action: Bill to canvas the US membership to look for another Deputy Treasurer.

4. Register of References

Ian updated that he has made good progress with the register of references and that they're almost in a position to be published on the website.

There was a question about making the publications available in hard copy for those not able to access the website. It was agreed most people should be able to find the means to print hard copies if needed.

Ian is looking at producing a one-off hard copy to send to Stuart Worthington in recognition of his valuable contribution to the compilation and editing of this latest volume (and the previous 10).

There was discussion about a new area on the website for research and what might be accessible for both members and non-members.

5. Newsletter

Hannah updated on the newsletter and the proposal to use Mailchimp. Ian has prepared a crossword to be included in the newsletter and Hannah is drafting an article on the Meridian Shipwreck in 1853.

Sidney suggested having a Research section in the newsletter where members could ask questions to the Society.

Action: Sidney to send his research question on the Worthington Ship.

Action: Hannah to circulate newsletter a draft newsletter.

6. Growing the Membership

Ian updated that he had contacted 6 former members to update them on the work being done by the Society and asked them to consider rejoining. Following this, Jason Worthington has rejoined the Society.

Ian put forward a proposal to write an article on the Society. The Committee were supportive and suggested there were a range of places it could be published including local history societies, Family Tree Magazine etc.

Action: Ian to draft an article and circulate to the Committee.

7. Next AGM and Future Gatherings

It was agreed that the next AGM would take place in April/May and most likely on Zoom.

There was also discussion about having a gathering in Salt Lake City.

Action: Bill to get in touch with Salt Lake City venue to explore possibility of a future gathering and find out how much lead in time we'd need.

8. Volume 2 Update

There was a discussion about the benefit of publishing Volume 2 on the website rather than in hard copy form. This included it being quicker, cheaper and we'd have the ability to update as more information became available.

[Note: Ian subsequently spoke to Paul who is also in agreement]

Vote: Five voted in support for publishing Volume 2 electronically. Paul's internet connection dropped out and he wasn't able to vote, but Ian will check in with him to get his views.

9. AOB

a) DNA Project: Sidney updated that the DNA Project was progressing well.

Meeting closed at 10.45pm UKT

Next Meeting: Early 2021