

Worthington Family History Society

Council Meeting

27th March 2021, 8.30pm (UK Time), Zoom

Attendees: Ian Worthington (Chair), Paul Lawrence, Bill Worthington, Sidney Worthington, Jan Worthington, Hannah Murphy (Minute taker).

Apologies: None

1. Welcome & Review Previous Minutes

Ian opened the meeting and the minutes from the previous Council Meeting (31st October 2020) were agreed.

2. Newsletter

It was noted that the newsletter had been well received.

The Council unanimously agreed that we should aim to circulate a second newsletter in June 2021 and going forward aim to produce two newsletters a year. It was agreed that Mailchimp had worked well and we should continue to use that format going forward.

It was noted that the Society had a new member, Christine Worthington, who works for The Society of Genealogists. Perhaps we could ask Christine to write an article for a future edition of the newsletter.

Jan noted that she had some snippets and stories which could work well in the newsletter.

Action: Ian/Hannah to draft letter to membership calling for contributions to the next edition.

Action: Hannah to coordinate the newsletter.

Action: Jan to send Hannah any articles or snippets which could be useful for the newsletter.

3. Website

To cover the ongoing costs of running and updating the website, Malcolm has proposed a fee of £100/year plus the host domain charge (£25-35/year).

The Council agreed that Malcolm had done a fantastic job on the website to date and that this represented very good value for money. It was unanimously agreed to accept Malcom's generous offer.

It was noted that the latest updates to the website have now been made. However, the Membership list may need to be updated to reflect new members.

It was also noted that it would be helpful to have some information on how many had viewed the website ahead of the AGM later this year. A question was raised around distinguishing between Member and Non-Member views; however it was noted that probably the only way to know would be if the Members Area was accessed.

Action: Paul to ask Sue to update the Membership List.

Action: Ian/ Paul to ask Malcolm for a report on website views ahead of the AGM.

4. Update from Treasurer

Paul updated that Larry Rickards is in the process of opening a new bank account for the Society in the USA (which was easier than changing signatories within the existing account).

It is hoped that this will be sorted ahead of membership fee letters going out, however otherwise US Members might be asked to pay by cheque in the first instance.

Paul presented on the (almost) end of financial year accounts circulated to the Council on 23rd March. With very little expenditure at present the reserves have nearly doubled from where they were when the accounts were last presented. The Society has approximately £3,600 and this amount is expected to increase once membership fee reminders are sent out. It was noted this will be helpful when we look to publish Volume 2.

Action: Paul to send out renewal notices to the handful of former/lapsed members of the Society to see if they can be encouraged to rejoin.

5. Book Sales

It was noted circa 20 books had been sold in the USA and 33 in the UK. It would be interesting to get an update from Amazon and the Publisher about how many they had sold. It was noted that we were still able to offer the 30% discount to Members, however postage costs had increased.

Jan asked whether a flyer had been produced for the book as this could be a helpful promotion material. Hannah noted that the flyer (if produced) could also be included in the newsletter. The Council weren't aware of a flyer being produced but could check with the publisher.

It was noted that Transferwise (now called Wise) has been looked into as an option for transferring funds between the UK and USA bank accounts, however it doesn't appear that it can be used for organisation (just individuals).

Action: Sidney to get an update from Amazon and Publisher on Book Sales.

Action: Sidney to check with publisher whether a flyer was made. If one hasn't been made Jan to prepare one.

6. Archive Material

Sidney provided an update on the archive material belonging to the Society and stored at Knossington House, Rutland. In summary, Sidney is hoping to visit in mid-April once Covid-19 lockdown restrictions have been eased (if the new rules permit).

Action: Sidney to provide an email update to the Council by the end of April.

7. Next AGM and Future Gatherings

It was agreed that the next AGM would take place in late June using Zoom. It was noted that it would be good to have attendance from the wider membership and that the newsletter could be used to promote the AGM.

It was noted that having a gathering this year may not be possible given the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we will revisit in June as part of the AGM.

Action: Ian and Hannah to meet separately to discuss collating papers ahead of the AGM in June.

8. Volume 2 Update

Ian provided an update on Volume 2 (as set out in his note circulated to the Council on 26 March). Stuart has undertaken a review of the 37 proposed pedigrees presenting new or corrected evidence when he found it. Heather Lawrence and Ian have been examining the pedigrees to check for accuracy. Of these pedigrees, 15 have been completed, 8 have been reviewed and examined and are currently being finalised and 13 still need to be (or are in the process of being) examined.

For the next stage, Ian will be preparing an example chapter, using Newbold. Once agreed with the Council, this will then be used as a template for the other chapters.

9. Obituary/ Acknowledgement of Philip M Worthington's work

The Council noted the significant contribution Philip had made to the Society, particularly the 17th Century Project. It was agreed that an article could be written in the next newsletter acknowledging his contribution.

Action: Sidney, Jan, Paul, and Heather to draft an article for the newsletter and then circulate to the Council.

10. AOB

Jan noted that she had a number of historic documents from when the Society was first established including original AGMS, minutes and speaker lists. She asked whether Sidney would like to store them with the other archives from the Society. Sidney noted that that would be really helpful.

Action: Jan to send archives to Sidney (or otherwise wait until she next visits the UK).

Sidney questioned whether the Register of References on the website were able to be downloaded as a pdf? Ian and Paul confirmed that they could.

Bill noted that the Registers of Reference and other documents saved to the website should be stored as non-modifiable data so that they can't be edited.

Action: Ian/ Bill to check with Malcolm whether this documents on the website can be edited.

Hannah questioned whether we should aim to circulate the newsletter before or after the AGM and the Council agreed it should go out beforehand, so it can be used to promote the AGM.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm UKT

Next Meeting: Mid-2021