



Worthington Family History Society

Minutes of the 17th Annual Meeting held on Friday 8 July 2022 at 21:30 BST via Zoom.

- Welcome:** The Secretary, Hannah Murphy, opened the meeting and those present introduced themselves. It was noted that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of minute taking. Hannah then handed over to the President, Ian Worthington, to lead the meeting.

List of Members present and Apologies for absence:

Present: Ian Worthington (President), Hannah Murphy (Secretary, Minutes), Paul Lawrence (Treasurer, Webmaster), Sidney Worthington (Councillor Europe, Archivist), Bill Worthington (Councillor Americas), Jan Worthington (Councillor Australasia), Sue Worthington (Membership Secretary), Larry Rickards (Deputy Treasurer, Member), Heather Lawrence (Member), Tom Gross (Member) and Donald Worthington (Member).

Proxy votes received from: Judy Worthington and John Tiller.

Apologies received from: Amanda Mackevicius, Judy Worthington, John Tiller, Steven Worthington and Michael Worthington.

- Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held electronically on 31st July 2021**

The minutes were taken as read. Jan Worthington **proposed**, and Sidney Worthington **seconded** that the previous minutes be accepted with no corrections. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting.

- Finance**

Financial Position: Paul Lawrence (Treasurer) presented the accounts up until 31st March 2022 which had been prepared by himself and Larry Rickards and circulated with the meeting papers. This showed an improved position of the reserves held by the Society which have increased from £3,680 to £5,499. The main expenditure had been a very modest cost for the maintenance of the website including the presentation of pedigrees and circulation of the newsletter.

Subscriptions: Given the Society's current financial position, Council have agreed to keep subscriptions at their current rate for 2022/2023. The rate will therefore remain at US\$42 for members in USA and Canada and £32 for the rest of the world, including Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Budget: The proposed annual budget to 31 March 2022 had also been circulated with the meeting papers. Paul Lawrence noted that costs were projected to be relatively small with the only identified costs to date are for the website and postage for Volume One.

Sidney Worthington **proposed**, and Jan Worthington **seconded** that the Treasurer's Accounts and for the Year Ending 31 March 2022 and Budget for the Year ending 31 March 2023 be approved. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting.

4. Membership

The circulated membership report dated 1 June 2022 from Suzanne Worthington (Membership Secretary) was received. There are currently 48 members with 4 new members joining from 31 March 2021 to 1 April 2022. It was noted that approximately half of the membership are now located in the USA.

Suzanne Worthington **proposed**, and Ian Worthington **seconded** that the 4 new members be formally accepted. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting.

5. Update of Volume 2 and Publication of Data

Ian Worthington presented an update of Volume 2, following a report circulated alongside the AGM papers. 11 of the pedigrees and charts of Volume 2 are now available on the website. A further two pedigrees for Leicestershire, one for Staffordshire, two for Warwickshire and two for Hampshire are almost ready to be added.

Over the coming weeks, Ian Worthington, Stuart Worthington and Heather Lawrence will be finalising those pedigrees for Montgomeryshire and Connecticut, USA and Jan Worthington and Ian Worthington will be finalising the pedigrees for Kent. The pedigrees for Cheshire will hopefully be completed by autumn.

Overviews are also being prepared which provide context and discussion including possible connections which can't yet be evidenced to the level needed for the pedigrees.

Those present were encouraged to look at the pedigrees available on the website and to provide feedback including whether they were easy to read and presented in a logical manner? Whether navigation of the website is straightforward and easy to use/follow? And any general observations to help us improve this service to members.

6. Publication of Research Data

Following the above update and a paper circulate with the AGM papers, Ian Worthington led a discussion on the publication of research data going forward. With the small membership within the Society (currently 48 members), the valuable material and research will not be widely viewed. It is proposed therefore that after a period of about 6 months, the charts and narratives of 'Volume/Part 2' of the *Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century* be moved to the public area of the WFHS website.

A further proposal is to reformat the pedigree charts from Volume 1 in the same way as those for Volume/Part 2 are being presented (in colour) and publish those online too. It is not proposed to publish or reproduce any of the narrative or text of Volume 1 in order not to jeopardise possible future sales of the book.

Resolution

- a) To authorise to publish the research data (narratives and charts) of Part 2 of the *Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century* in the public area of the WFHS

website. A date for this transfer from the members' area to be agreed in Council and reported to the members at least one month in advance of it being done.

- b) To authorise Council to publish the research data (charts only) from Volume 1 of the *Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century* in the public area of the WFHS website. A date for this transfer from the members' area to be agreed in Council and reported to the members at least one month in advance of it being done.

Ian Worthington **proposed**, and Larry Rickards **seconded** Resolution A as set out above. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting.

7. Ian Worthington **proposed**, and Hannah Murphy **Seconded** Resolution B as set out above. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting.

Election and Appointment of Officers and Councillors

Hannah Murphy (Secretary) confirmed that the only nominations received were for existing Council Members. Those on the Council agreed to stand again.

President	Ian Worthington Proposed by Jan Worthington, seconded by Sidney Worthington and approved by all.
Secretary	Hannah Murphy Proposed by Ian Worthington, seconded by Sidney Worthington and approved by all.
Treasurer	Paul Lawrence Proposed by Larry Rickards, seconded by Bill Worthington and approved by all.
Councillor Americas	Bill Worthington Proposed by Paul Lawrence, seconded by Hannah Murphy and approved by all.
Councillor Europe	Sidney Worthington Proposed by Larry Rickards, seconded by Bill Worthington and approved by all.
Councillor Australasia	Jan Worthington Proposed by Ian Worthington, seconded by Paul Lawrence and approved by all.

8. Appointment of Other positions

Those holding the positions of Membership Secretary, Deputy Treasurer, Webmaster and Archivist agreed to continue in those positions as set out in the table below:

Membership Secretary	Suzanne Worthington
Deputy Treasurer (USA)	Larry Rickards
Webmaster	Paul Lawrence

Archivist	Sidney Worthington
-----------	--------------------

The Council approved the above appointments.

9. Proposal to amend the Constitution Article 5.1

At the 2021 AGM, Judy Worthington raised the question as to whether a virtual AGM is permitted under the Constitution. The current article 5.1 is not clear about whether a virtual AGM is acceptable under the constitution, unlike EGM's and Council meetings which are specifically allowed to meet virtually (articles 5.7 and 6.1 respectively).

5.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 6 calendar months of the end of each Society year. The format for an AGM may be either as a physical meeting in an agreed location, or virtually by means of a Zoom conference (or similar software). All members shall be entitled to attend.

Ian Worthington **proposed**, and Paul Lawrence **seconded** that article 5.1 of the Constitution be replaced with the wording above. The motion was **adopted** by the meeting after receiving unanimous support.

10. Resolutions or submissions from the membership not covered by the agenda

No further resolutions or submissions were received from the membership.

11. Future Meetings and Gatherings

Ian Worthington (President) noted previous discussions with regards to holding a gathering at Salt Lake City. There was support for holding an event at Salt Lake City in the future. It was also noted that Members are welcome to hold more local events. It was agreed conversations on future gatherings would be continued by the Council.

12. Future Security of the Financial Assets and Intellectual Property of the Society

Ian Worthington led a discussion about the future security of financial and intellectual assets owned by the Society and in particular what would happen if the Society ceased to exist.

Jan noted that approaching local archivists such as Dover Museum could be worthwhile. It was noted Judy was going to approach the Lancashire Office about donating some of Philip's records. It would be interesting to know how they respond. It was also suggested that Ian approach the Society of Genealogists.

It was noted that if records are digitalised, they will be more accessible worldwide including in the United States, where there seems to be a lot of interest.

There was discussion about getting professional advice on where the repository might sit if the Society ceases to exist. It was noted that with the work carried out by Ian, Heather and Stuart has carried out some work which was previously carried out by a paid secretary, so the Society has saved expenses and will be able to fund a professional.

Sidney was asked, and agreed, following a suggestion raised by Heather, to contact GOONS to explore the option of archiving the website content if the Society was to cease to exist in the future.

Action: Ian to discuss with the Society of Genealogists.

Action: Sidney to contact GOONS and Fonthill Media

Action: Council to explore options with local archivists and genealogy societies including potential for getting professional advice.

13. Any Other Business

1. Newsletter: Hannah Murphy requested a volunteer to co-ordinate the next edition of the Society Newsletter. Paul and Heather volunteered to coordinate the next newsletter. In terms of content, Jan Worthington will continue her series in the next edition. Larry Rickards and Sue Worthington will feature in the 'Meet the Members' section. Tom Gross is meeting Marian Brown in Ohio, home of Thomas Worthington, and will provide a write up and photos for the newsletter.
2. Subscription costs: a question was raised on whether the subscription costs were contributing to declining membership numbers. However, those present felt that the subscription costs were very reasonable.

Ian Worthington (President) thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 22.45 BST.