

THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty ninth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 8pm on Zoom due to the Coronavirus

Present: Rachel Radford (Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Madelaine Smith (Secretary), Clare Driver, Andrew Sheppard, Fiona Rose ,Jo Bellamy, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, John & Elaine Statham, John Taylor, Ken Worthing, Lewis & Jenny Duke, Stan Webster, Richard Herbert, Lawrence Wragg, Rosemary Hayes.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty ninth AGM of the Society.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Martin Morris and Jocelyn Flitton
3. **Minutes of the thirty eighth Annual General Meeting.** Glynis Hammond proposed that the minutes be adopted as correct, Clare Driver seconded and there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report.**

The year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 seems a long time ago now and quite a different world from where we are now.

Some things haven't changed though and that's the pressures this area faces from developers. We had quite a lot of good news with the rejection of the appeal by SmithsonHill against refusal of the Agri-Tech Hub, the refusal of planning permission for car showrooms on the A505, refusal of a proposed big increase in passenger throughput at Stansted Airport and the rejection of Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate. The blot on the landscape, as it were, was the granting of outline planning permission for the massive expansion of the Wellcome Genome Campus. Sadly, developers don't give up easily and the Agri-Tech Hub, car showrooms and a very large expansion of Duxford together with an aviation park, have all been put forward under the Call for Sites for the Greater Cambridge Plan. It remains to be seen what will happen to those proposals together with many sites put forward for housing including 3 in Ickleton. The owners of Stansted Airport appealed the decision against them and that is now going to a public enquiry.

Locally, we took expert advice on Back Lane being used for vehicular access to a converted barn at Harlequin House. We had objected to this aspect of the plan as we were concerned about deterioration of this public footpath, particularly in the winter. Permission was nevertheless granted by S Cambs though it was acknowledged that this did not necessarily mean that a right of way existed. The advice we got did indicate that there is a good argument that a right of way for vehicles would not exist for access to any new dwellings should they be built along the public footpath section of Back Lane.

We had a good mixture of events during the year starting with a most interesting and entertaining talk after our last AGM by the archivist of Addenbrooke's Hospital. The archaeological dig at Abbey Farm started in June on the site where the Geophys group had found indications of a building that might have been part of the Priory complex. At least one of our members helped them out one day. Mike Coles gave us a talk in the autumn about how the dig had gone and brought along some of the finds. (The dig resumed for a week at the end of September, beginning of October. There have been a few more finds and, importantly, they think they have removed much of the 17th and 18th century material so should quickly get down to the medieval level if they can resume digging next year.)

Many thanks to Sian and Peter Wombwell for treating us to another walk through the strip lynchets and baulks at the end of June. We put on another very successful exhibition, this time in the Church for the 40th anniversary of the fire and the rediscovery and preservation of the medieval wall paintings. Thanks also go to Lewis Duke, Rosie Hayes, Hilary Rule, the Parochial Church Council and, of course, Paul Shakeshaft for their contributions to the event.

Thanks to Fiona and Clare for organising the ever popular New Year's Day walk and soup lunch. Also, many, many thanks to Sebastian Payne for another hugely enjoyable wine tasting in February. Some members of the archaeology group undertook some field walking, with kind permission of Lewis Duke, in fields off Duxford Road. Andrew Shepperd and I joined them one day and I can say how hard it was to spot worked flints amongst the hundreds of thousands of pieces of flint on the surface of the soil. Sadly, the field walking had to be cut short and the annual litter pick cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The archive continues to grow and we're very grateful to those people who have given or lent photos and other items. As usual we put out a display of archives at the fete and small displays in the Village Hall for Open Gardens and the Village Hall Open Day. Every 3 months we changed the mini display in the old phone box and work continued to add new material to the Ickleton Chronicle.

Members of the Committee and the Parish Council spent a fun afternoon cleaning the Cemetery Chapel. This would be a lovely venue for small, mainly summer, events at some point in the future. During the year we received the 2 awards given for our book "Ickleton and the Great War".

We obviously had to cancel or postpone events we had planned for this year and hope that we may be able to resume them at some point next year.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Committee for all their contributions during 2019/20 - John Fowler continued to look after our finances, Madelaine, as our Secretary had the unenviable task of writing up minutes and correspondence but also helped with filing archive items and organising our events, and Andrew looked after the website, Fiona managed our Facebook pages and did our publicity and Jo dealt with membership, Clare, Glynis and Hugh contributed in many ways. And thank you to all our members for continuing to support the Society.

5. Treasurer's Report. A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2020 had previously been circulated to members. John Fowler explained the main items in the accounts and reported that they had been audited by Ken Worthing. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Statham, seconded by Lawrence Wragg and agreed by the meeting. The chairman put the proposal to the meeting that £500 be donated to the Fund for the restoration of the Church wall paintings and this was agreed unanimously. Lewis Duke thanked the Society for the donation and said that the Appeal was due to be launched after Christmas.

6. Members' Questions. There were no questions raised but Rosemary Hayes expressed her gratitude for the help she had received from a number of items from our archives that she had been able to use in her preparation of the new village guidebook and the help she had received from our chairman, Rachel Radford. Clare also updated us on various measures she was planning for the upkeep of the village.

7. Election of Officers and Committee. There were no more nominations and :
Chairman – Rachel Radford had been proposed and seconded and was elected unopposed.

Madelaine Smith, John Fowler and Hugh Molloy had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and respectively. Andrew Shepperd, Fiona Rose, Glynis Hammond and Jo Bellamy had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as members of the Committee. There were no other nominations and the meeting agreed that they be appointed en bloc. Clare Driver was voted on as a Co-opted member of the committee.

8. Election of the Hon. Auditor. Ken Worthing was thanked for auditing the accounts and confirmed that he was happy to continue as auditor. Richard Herbert proposed and Lawrence Wragg seconded that Ken Worthing continue as auditor.

9. Any Other Business. Hugh Molloy was thanked for arranging and managing the meeting via zoom.