

Beccles Society Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 12 May, 2021 by zoom at 7pm

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Paul Gurbutt, welcomed the President, Martin Bell OBE, and current members to the meeting. There were 17 attendees.

2. **Apologies** had been received from Elizabeth Bracken and Chris Scott.

3. **The minutes of the previous AGM held on 10 April 2019 were approved.** There was no AGM in 2020 because of the covid restrictions.

4. **Chairman's Report**

This appeared in the newsletter circulated to members. The chairman thanked the members of the Executive Committee who had stood down after many years of service, including David Lindley, John Sayer, Paul and Jennifer Fletcher and the late Richard Bellefontaine. Thanks were expressed to Bob Aris for his continuing support even though no longer a member of the committee, namely for the weekly review of planning applications, help with the newsletter and with the Dr Nicholson Award. The chairman also thanked Ray Poll, our Membership Secretary, who is relocating to Scotland.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The report appeared in the newsletter for 2019 and for 2020. The Treasurer, Jeff Harris, reported less activity than usual because of the covid restrictions.

6. **Membership Report**

Ray Poll reported that the Society has 64 members. He said that as several did not have an email address it had made communication difficult.

7. **Election of Officers**

(a) Martin Bell took the chair for the election of the chairman. Paul Gurbutt was unanimously elected.

(b) Paul Gurbutt proposed that those nominated for the committee be elected en masse. This was agreed unanimously.

- Treasurer Jeff Harris
- Minutes Secretary Mu Gurbutt
- Publicity Officer Clare Mackney
- Committee members Barry Darch
 Terry Goodwin
 Douglas Peck
 Chris Scott

There were no nominations for Vice-chairman nor Honorary Secretary.

8. **Any Other Business**

(a) Ray Poll reported that he will update the membership spreadsheets, in consultation with Jeff Harris, before he departs for Scotland. The previous

chairman, Paul Fletcher, paid thanks to Ray Poll for his work as membership secretary.

(b) There was a discussion on whether the next meeting of the executive committee would be via zoom or in person. This will be reviewed in a month.

9. **Date of Next AGM will be 13 April 2022**, hopefully in person.

Post AGM Talk by Mike Wabe, entitled “Foul Murders in East Anglia”

Two guests joined the zoom meeting.

Paul Gurbutt introduced the speaker, Mike Wabe, from Medieval World, who had been a police officer and a prison officer before retiring.

Mike explained that he could not talk about recent murders as there may be relatives still living, so he concentrated on the 19th and early 20th centuries around Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. This interesting talk finished with probably one of the most notorious in Suffolk, namely the Murder in the Red Barn at Polstead.

Mike was thanked and the meeting closed.