

**Minutes of the Thirty Sixth Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of the Suffolk Record Office
held on the 23rd May 2018 at 6.30 pm
The Tudor Room
Christchurch Mansion
Soane Street
Ipswich
Suffolk**

1-Introduction and Welcome The Chair was taken by Mrs Betty Milburn. Mrs Milburn welcomed all those present and thanked everyone for attending. A List of attendees is attached to the master copy of the minutes.

2-Welcome from our Vice President, The Marquess of Bristol

Lord Bristol spoke of the historic aspects of records and the fact he was one of the larger depositor of records at Bury record Office, and also of the amazing living aspect as some documents dating back more than a century and a half were still valid, and the importance of original documentation. A digital copy was not the same as an original document.

3-Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Clare Countess of Euston (President) Miss Amanda Arrowsmith (Vice President) Sue Roper (Suffolk County Council) Mr R G Thomas, Mr Victor Gray, Sarah Zins, Lord Tollemache, Catherine Buchanan, Hilary Ritchie. Major P Hope Cobbold, Dr D Dymond, Mr Paul and Mrs Chris Harrison, Professor M Lang, Mr P Scriven, Mr B Segrave-Daly Miss Helen Statham, Dr and Mrs E Cockayne, Mrs S Herring, Mr & Mrs D Palgrave, Mr D Whittaker, Mrs P Currie, Dr P Gurbutt, Mrs D Heavens, Mrs L Good, Mr AK Robertson, Mrs and Mrs C Paine, Mr AAR Cobbold, Miss PA Randell, Mrs J S Robinson, Mr D Tolliday, Mrs T Wise, Mr KB and Mrs EV Wakefield, Sir Michael Bunbury, The Earl of Iveagh, Dr S Soni, Stephen Fletcher, Mrs J E Barnes, Dr AF Sutton, Mrs S Maxwell, Framlingham and District History and Preservation Society, Dr and Mrs B Owen, Mrs B Sims Mrs P Steele, Dr P Wells, Mrs Susan Izod Quay, Dr Amanda Berry, Mrs E Scott-Townsend.

4-Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on the 6th October 2017.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held in Bury St Edmunds were signed as a correct record. Proposed by Stephen Dart and seconded by Mrs Margaret Statham and duly approved by those present

5-Chairmans' Report

Mrs Betty Milburn presented her report a copy of which is attached to the minutes, outlining the main events of the year, namely the Hold and the approval of the £10 million HLF grant and the Dr John Blatchly appeal Mrs Milburn announced that she was stepping down as chair and was pleased to propose Mrs Sarah Doig to take over from here. She thanked the officers and committee for their help during her year as Chair. An appeal was made for a further committee member from East Suffolk.

6-Financial Report including appointment of Hon Auditor. Treasurer's Report and Election of Auditor

Mrs Frances Gander presented the audited accounts for the year 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017. A copy of the financial statement is attached to these minutes. She went through the accounts and explained the reason for the increase in meeting costs and also the purchase of the book scanner for Lowestoft funded partly by FOSRO and partly by local councillors from their locality budgets. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mrs Betty Milburn and seconded by Mrs Patricia Mackie and duly approved by those present. Mrs Frances Gander then proposed the appoint of Mr S Cook as independent financial examiner. This was seconded by Mr Robert Houlton-Hart and duly approved by those present.

7-Appointment of President

Clare Countess of Euston President was appointed President.

The following had been nominated as Vice Presidents.

The Marquis of Bristol, Dr Jane Fiske, Miss Amanda Arrowsmith, Mr Tim Greenacre
Proposed by Mr Robert Houlton-Hart and seconded by Mr Robin Burnett and duly carried en bloc and approved by the meeting

8-Election of Officers

The following nominations had been received

Chairman Mrs Sarah Doig

Mrs Betty Milburn proposed Mrs Sarah Doig as Chairman seconded by Mr Stephen Dart. This was duly approved by those present.

Mrs Betty Milburn then stepped down from the Chair and Mrs Sarah Doig took up the post.

Mrs Doig thanked Mrs Milburn for stepping in at the last AGM to the Chair

Vice Chairman Mrs Betty Milburn proposed by Mrs Sarah Doig, and seconded by Mrs Margaret Statham and duly approved by those present.

The Officers

Treasurer & Membership Secretary Mrs Frances Gander Honorary Secretary

Mr Robert Houlton-Hart Proposed by Mr Ray Whitehand and seconded by Mrs D Kirby, and duly carried en bloc and approved by the meeting.

9-Election of the Committee

The following nominations had been received

Mrs Margaret Statham, Mr Gwyn Thomas, Mr Robin Burnett, Mr Stephen Dart.

Mr Ray Whitehand. Proposed by Mrs Betty Milburn and seconded by Mrs Diane Kirby and duly carried en bloc and approved by the meeting.

10 Record Office Report, including an update of The Hold.

Miss Amy Rushton presented an update on the Hold a copy of which is attached to the minutes. She commented on the amount raised to date for the John Blatchly Local Studies Library, the various funding applications in progress and that all was on track for the formal opening of the Hold in the spring of 2020. She outlined the countywide activity plan which includes a project called Sharing Suffolk Stories which form a crucial part of community involvement of the HLF project.

Miss Kate Chantry presented a comprehensive report on the work of the Suffolk Record Office a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Fewer on line enquiries were from desk tops and more from i pads and I phones. There had been a substantial increase in on line enquiries up by 62% over the past year. SRO were joining forces with Suffolk Nature and Environment.

The formal business concluded at 7.00 pm