

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
at 7.30 p.m. on 23rd April 2014 at the
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge

President, Dr P Spoerry, in the Chair

23 members and guests were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Coates and Peter and Lynn Cornelissen.

1. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 10th April 2013 had been circulated and, on the proposal of Terry Dymott, seconded by John Waterhouse, were **CONFIRMED** as a correct record and signed by the President.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman reported on a year which seen the culmination of 15 years of work at Wimpole. He saw the posters, booklet and forthcoming grey report on the Wimpole project as the pinnacle of the Group's work so far, demonstrating its expertise gained over the years, and the various disciplines used. The outcome could also be used by others who wanted to study the area further. Other people who had seen the booklet were particularly interested in the maps. Thanks were offered to all involved, especially Terry Dymott for driving the project forward.

The chairman thanked the president for his direction and Oxford Archaeology East for their support. There had also been considerable support from the University, including the ability to hold the monthly project meetings on its premises. These had been booked for a further six months and all were welcome. He was hoping to get the Group affiliated to the McDonald Institute so that the facilities could continue to be used.

Finally, the chairman expressed the hope that the Group could continue for another 30 years with other people.

The president thanked the chairman for his input and praised the high quality of the Wimpole booklet, noting that this was a distillation of the information gained. The full information would be set out in the report now being prepared. He was pleased to receive, as the president, the reflected glory.

On the proposal of Cyril Pritchett, seconded by John Holloway, the chairman's report was accepted.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report on the business and activities of the Group during the past year had been circulated and was accepted on the proposal of Richard Cushing, seconded by John Waterhouse.

The President expressed his thanks to Susan May for her efforts for the Group.

The report is appended to the minute book copy of these minutes.

4. **FIELD OFFICER'S REPORT**

The field officer's report on fieldwork during the year had been circulated. He added that final alterations to the text of the Haslingfield grey report had now been completed and those to the maps were in hand. The Groups's Facebook page was now more active since regular information about fieldwalking had been put on. A number of members had said they would help with the Wimpole grey report and a progress meeting was to be held on 6th May. The report on the excavations of Mr Ratford's house was the next priority and a preliminary planning group had been formed. The report was accepted on the proposal of Robert Skeen, seconded by Terry Dymott.

The report is appended to the minute book copy of these minutes.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts had been circulated and Richard Cushing had now examined and certified them as correct. The treasurer commented that the year had shown that archaeologists could manage budgets accurately. The HLF grant had meant more entries, but no headaches for him. One item which might cause query was the lack of postage costs: this was because any postage incurred had been charged to grants. On the proposal of Michael Coles, seconded by Cyril Pritchett, the accounts were accepted.

The revised schedule of assets had also been circulated and was noted. A further item to be added was a 1 metre drawing frame held by Colin Coates.

The certified copy of the accounts is attached to the minute book copy of these minutes.

6. **VAL WHITTAKER'S BURSARY FUND**

The committee recommended, in accordance with the decision made at the AGM in 2012 to adopt a policy of topping up the bursary fund, the transfer of £200 from ordinary income. In addition, the committee wished to place on record that more than one bursary in any one year should be offered only exceptionally.

On the proposal of Cheryl Pusey, seconded by John Waterhouse, it was **RESOLVED** that £200 be transferred in the current financial year from ordinary income to the Val Whittaker bursary fund; and accepted that only exceptionally will more than one bursary be offered in any one year.

7. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

On the recommendation of the committee, and on the proposal of John Holloway, seconded by Bill Watkins and Richard Cushing, it was **RESOLVED** that subscriptions for 2014/15 (from 1st April 2014) be retained at:

- £10 for individual membership
- £15 family membership
- Entrance to lectures for non-members £1

8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

All officers and committee members were prepared to stand again and no further nominations had been received. On the proposal of Jayne Nelson, seconded by John Holloway, it was **RESOLVED** that the following be elected to the offices indicated for 2014/15:

Chairman	Barrie Fuller, 47 Queens Edith's Way, Cambridge, CB1 4PJ
Secretary	Susan May, 94 High Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EH
Treasurer	Dudley Pusey, 45 St Laurence Road, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6SF
Field Officer	Mike Coles, 44 Cantelupe Road, Haslingfield, Cambridge, CB23 7LU
Committee	Colin Coates, 14 Humber Drive, Yaxley, Peterborough, PE7 3QB

Peter Cornelissen, 4 St Albans, Fordham Road, Newmarket, CB8 7AJ
Terry Dymott, 26 Barrons Way, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7EQ
Robert Skeen, 2 Malton Lane, Meldreth, Royston, SG8 6PA
John Waterhouse, 22 Topcliffe Way, Cambridge, CB1 8SH

It was noted from the floor that members might be happy to be co-opted during the year.

9. **ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS**

Richard Cushing suggested that this role should be undertaken for only one or two years. It was not onerous and gave members not on the committee the opportunity to know what was happening. There was no urgency to elect an examiner, in that the work came at the end of the financial year, but the treasurer requested an early decision and election could only take place at a general meeting. In these circumstances, Richard offered to take on the role for a further year and the meeting **RESOLVED** that Richard Cushing be elected examiner of accounts for 2014/15.

However, the President recommended that the need for a new examiner for the next year should be raised at lectures to prompt members to come forward.

10. **RESULTS OF THE MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE**

The idea of a questionnaire had been raised at a Wimpole project meeting. Jayne Nelson had formulated the survey and collated the responses. These had been circulated but there had not been time for prior discussion. Jayne explained that one of her aims was to explore how to tap into the different expertise brought by individual members, citing her lack of archaeological knowledge when she had been a new member at the last AGM. She had met many members over the year and had found that there were various different groups at different activities. There had been a c. 25% response rate. Unsurprisingly, fieldwalking and excavations were the top interests, but pottery identification and reading the landscape also received high scores. There was now a need to think how the wishes expressed could be served.

The president commented that 25% was not a bad return and felt that the results were not entirely surprising; the study of archaeology being such a broad discipline. He agreed that the results must not be forgotten, but suggested that the committee should come back to members on how best to take the comments forward. On particular items, he commented: account should be taken of the Jigsaw workshops in devising a Group programme; he was happy to help with pottery identification; new aerial photographs and Google Earth could help to find potential sites; canvassing all members to help was the way forward; individuals could be invited on to the committee to see how things work. The constitution allowed for co-option.

From the floor it was suggested that all members might be invited to a meeting specifically to discuss the way forward. However, extra activities could only be contemplated with input from more members. A specific issue raised at the meeting was that it would be helpful for members to know in advance the proposed activity for the Wednesday Bar Hill session and for there to be more structure to the activities.

President’s comments

The president offered his thanks to officers and members and noted that a number of matters needed determination before the next AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....