



Minutes of the Royal Historical Society Anniversary Meeting (AGM) of 24 November 2023

The Anniversary Meeting (Annual General Meeting, AGM) of the Royal Historical Society (“RHS”) was held in the Brewer & Smith room of Mary Ward House and online on Friday 24 November 2023 at 6:00pm, with Professor Emma Griffin, President of the RHS, in the chair.

Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, the Chair welcomed all who were attending in person and online. She noted that due to the format of the meeting on this occasion, the votes of the Fellows and Retired Fellows regarding the scheduled resolutions had been submitted in advance. The Chair thanked all those who had cast their vote.

The Chair noted that the Society’s Fellows had been asked to submit questions in advance, and that those questions that were not addressed during the meeting, would be answered by email shortly afterwards.

1. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting of 25 November 2022

A general resolution to confirm that the *Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting of 25 November 2022*, as circulated in advance of the meeting, were a true and accurate record of the meeting was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Barbara Bombi.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of 100%, which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was **carried**. This document was therefore duly admitted into the records of the Society.

2. To receive a report on the activities of the Royal Historical Society

The Chair gave a brief presentation on the activities of the Society since the last meeting, in November 2022. She noted that the Society remained financially robust with 55% of the Society’s income derived from Membership Subscriptions which, in the economic climate at the time, partially drove the later proposal to increase the membership fees for 2024. It was noted that the Society expended approximately £95k more on its charitable activities than in previous years.

It was noted that the Society continued to reinforce and broaden its support for Fellows and Members including shifting the focus from reactive recognition of achievement, to proactive support for research and education; focus of support on those who need it the most; creating opportunities for historians to meet, network and collaborate; and, initiatives to engage with historians at ‘mid-career’ stage, who often get overlooked.

The Chair outlined recent advocacy work, including a number of department visits across the UK; the Society's responses to the challenges facing the discipline at UK universities; providing and disseminating data on the UK historical profession; and speaking for historians in the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise.

Turning to the Society's continuing work related to equality and diversity within the discipline, the Chair highlighted the RHS Masters Scholarship Scheme for groups currently underrepresented within the discipline, and the recent 'Futures of Black British History Event'. The Chair reminded those present that whilst the Society continued to fund scholarships and similar initiatives, financial contributions from related organisations to extend the reach of these schemes was always welcome.

Concluding, the Chair reminded the Fellows of the Society's impactful events over the past year, noting that the Society had provided a platform for 50 speakers, over 26 events, including lectures; panels; discussions; training workshops; discussion forums; and partnership lectures at universities across the UK. Additionally, the Society continued with its collaborative agenda, working with publishing partners to provide expert guidance to members of our community, and continuing to engage with our Ukrainian colleagues.

3. To commend the '*Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023*' into the records of the Royal Historical Society

The Chair noted the *Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023*, which had been circulated before the meeting. A resolution to commend the report into the records of the Society was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Barbara Bombi.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of 99%, which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was **carried**. This document was therefore duly admitted into the records of the Society.

4. To receive an update on succession planning for the next President of the Royal Historical Society

The Chair noted that, as per the By Laws of the Royal Historical Society, a panel tasked with the identification and recommendation of the next President of the Society for appointment by the Council was formed from its Trustees earlier this year. It was comprised of Professor Caitriona Beaumont, Professor Simon MacLean, Professor Jonathan Morris and was chaired by Professor Jane Winters.

It was reported that the selection process was in its final stages, and it was anticipated that the name of the President Elect would be announced by email to all Fellows in the new year. At this point, in line with the By Laws, the President Elect will be made a Trustee of the Society.

5. To receive an Announcement of the Election of Officers

It was reported that, in accordance with By-laws XX and XXI, the following Officers retired from Council during the meeting:

- Professor Jonathan Morris, Vice-President for Research Policy
- Professor Jon Stobart, Honorary Treasurer
- Professor Julian Wright, Secretary for Professional Engagement

The Chair thanked the retiring Officers for their work for the Royal Historical Society.

In accordance with amendments to the Royal Historical Society's By-Laws, approved by Special Resolution at the Anniversary Meeting of 26 November 2021, the following changes to the structure of the Council were implemented at this meeting:

- the addition to Council of the position of Vice-President
- the removal of the position of Vice-President for Research Policy, and the addition of the position Secretary for Research

Additionally, in accordance with By-Laws XX and XXI the following Fellows were appointed by Council to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of the aforementioned Officers and the new positions implemented:

- Professor Clare Griffiths (Cardiff University) to the position of Vice-President
- Professor Barbara Bombi (University of Kent) to the position of Secretary for Research
- Dr (Michael) John Law (lately of University of Westminster) to the position of Treasurer

A general resolution to recognise the appointment of the three new Officers was put to the Fellows. The resolution was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Adam Budd.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of 99%, which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was **carried**. The new Officers adopted their new roles as officers and trustees of the Society immediately.

6. To receive an Announcement of the Election of Councillors.

It was reported that in accordance with By-Law XXIII, the following Councillors retired from Council during this meeting:

- Professor Barbara Bombi
- Professor Thomas Otte

The Chair reminded the Fellows that Professor Bombi would transition from her Councillor role to that of Secretary for Research.

The Chair thanked Professor Otte for his commitment and engagement in Society matters whilst a member of the Council.

It was reported that, in accordance with By-law XXIV, the following were elected in their place via online ballot earlier in the year:

- Professor Mark Knights (University of Warwick)
- Professor Iftikhar Malik (Bath Spa University)

A resolution to ratify the election was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Barbara Bombi.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of 99%, which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was **carried**. The two new Councillors adopted their roles as trustees of the Society immediately.

7. To receive notification of the Fellowship and Membership fees for the coming year

The Chair noted the proposed increased subscription fees for all categories of Fellowship and Membership that had been circulated to the Fellows as part of the agenda in advance of the meeting, as below:

	Within UK	Outside UK
Fellow	70.00	80.00
Fellow (Online Only)	65.00	75.00
Retired Fellow	45.00	55.00
Retired Fellow (Online Only)	40.00	50.00
Associate Fellow	50.00	60.00
Associate Fellow (Online Only)	45.00	55.00
Member	45.00	55.00
Member (Online Only)	40.00	50.00
Postgraduate Member	20.00	20.00

A resolution to recognise the updated fees was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Barbara Bombi.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of **93%**, which passes the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was **carried**. These fees would be applied at the point of annual renewal in July 2024.

8. To re-appoint the Auditors

Xeinadin Auditing, of Epsom Surrey, presented themselves for reappointment as external auditors of the Royal Historical Society.

A resolution to reappoint was **proposed** by Professor Jane Winters and **seconded** by Professor Barbara Bombi.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of **99%**, which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the resolution was **carried** and Xeinadin were reappointed.

There being no other business to transact, the Chair declared the meeting ended.

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