

Minutes of Inaugural AGM of ORA 2021

21st April 2021 by Zoom conferencing.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Steve Barton, Peter Burton, Mike Edwards, Mark Gee, Peter Howells, Paul Kerr, Tom Oxley, David Schofield, and Ian Scott.

Present. Ged Moss, Peter Holdsworth, Edward Otter, Jack Barber, John Dernie, John Brooke, David Guy, Simon Hart, Geoff Hughes, David Needham, Harry Nixon, John Palmer, Robert Palmer, Harry Payne, Graeme Reynolds, Peter Skelton, Alan Stennett, Philip Towler, Christopher Trend, David Waterfield, and Robin Williams.

Introduction by President-elect Ged Moss. Ged welcomed everyone and explained the simple agenda. He then invited Peter Holdsworth to summarise the Constitution.

Constitution. Secretary-elect Peter thanked Old Retfordian Michael Pace for examining the old Constitution and ironing out the clauses which had led to the downfall of the original ORA. Peter explained that by failing to call an AGM within the time constraints within the Constitution the positions of all the officers had lapsed. That left them unable to call an AGM and the Association folded in 2002.

Peter pointed out a small omission of 'VI' in Paragraph 3 where it should read King Edward VI School. This was to be amended in the Constitution.

Peter also explained the payment system for Life Membership, pointing out that there may be a precedent for a third method of payment of £25 to be explained by Treasurer-elect Edward. Peter also thanked Edward for months of perseverance to get our bank account up and running. Without Edward's banking experience we still wouldn't have a bank account.

Peter outlined the procedure for electing new Officers by means of a simple paper vote. A question was asked re: voting during a virtual AGM and it was agreed that under those circumstances we would vote by email. No amendment was made.

Adoption of the constitution was proposed by Peter Holdsworth and seconded by Chris trend. This was passed unanimously. No amendments were proposed.

Election of Officers. President-elect Ged explained that it had been necessary to have Officers in place and a Constitution in order to open a bank account. To this end Ged, Peter and Edward had volunteered as follows.

President Ged Moss 1977-84, Secretary Peter Holdsworth 1955-62, Treasurer Edward Otter 1953-58. Adoption was proposed by Ged Moss and seconded by David Waterfield. The three officers were duly elected.

Subscriptions. Treasurer Edward explained that, although the Constitution only allowed for a lump sum of £50 or 10 payments of £5, he had accepted a payment of £25 from one member. He felt that was quite acceptable as it represented 5 payments of £5, upfront. The remainder would become due in 5 years and could be paid as a further payment of £25 or 5 x £5.

Edward went on to announce a balance of £1,125 which included a very generous donation of £200 from one member. Thus, we have currently 19 Life Members.

He also explained our current liabilities relating to the website and the watercolour picture.

He also explained that he would send out a Standing Order form to anyone wishing to pay annually.

Honorary Members. President Ged reminded the meeting of the incredible work of John Palmer with his Eyemead website. He announced that, in recognition of that work, we would like to bestow Honorary Membership onto John, and also to his brother Robert in recognition of his assistance in transferring the Eyemead content onto our new Old Retfordian website. This was adopted without further comment.

Open Floor/Any other business. Wearing a different hat, Secretary Peter reminded the meeting about a forthcoming Reunion on 8th September at Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Barnby Moor. This Reunion has been going for many years, originally based around the 1955-62-year group, so not an official ORA event, at present.

President Ged went on to recommend the new Old Retfordians website. He asked for anecdotes to be included in the 'Recollections' section.

John Palmer recalled an anecdote relating Captain Scott's legendary Antarctic Expedition. For a donation of £5 you could get the name of your school onto a sledge, so there was a sledge called 'Retford' as part of the final assault of that Expedition. This is fully documented on the new website.

Finally, Ged thanked everyone for logging in and closed the meeting at approximately 8-15pm.

Date and Time of next AGM. To be announced.

Peter Holdsworth.

Secretary, Old Retfordians Association 2021