

## **CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP**

**DRAFT** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held  
at 7.30 p.m. on 10th April 2013 at the  
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge

President, Dr P Spoerry, in the Chair

24 members and guests were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Coles and Peter and Lynn Cornelissen.

The President expressed his thanks to the committee and those who had contributed in the last year.

### **1. MINUTES OF LAST AGM**

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 4th April 2012 had been circulated and, on the proposal of Robert Skeen, 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 with one of the biggest pushes forward with the HLF funded project, for which he thanked Terry Dymott in particular. Group members had turned out for fieldwalking despite poor weather, and the achievements of Peter Dight and the metal detecting group were highlighted. Work at Oily Hall showed that the Group could bring new light on areas that had been thought to be covered. Workshops run by Group members were also a great step forward.

There was so much to do, but it was better that way as there was something for all interests. The chairman himself worked largely behind the scenes.

Feedback from the University suggested that the Group's contribution to the area was appreciated. The President confirmed that its fieldwork was well regarded among other archaeologists. Widening members' expertise was good as it would bring more to the Group.

On the proposal of Colin Coates, seconded by Terry Dymott, 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 Dudley Pusey, seconded by Richard Cushing.

The President expressed his thanks to Susan May for her part in documenting and administering the work of 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 and was accepted in his absence on the proposal of Robert Skeen, seconded by John Waterhouse.

The president expressed his thanks to Mike Coles for his work, abilities and knowledgeable input.

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

#### 5. **WIMPOLE HLF PROJECT**

Terry Dymott, the project leader, outlined progress so far. The Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £9,300 had been awarded the previous October; the project starting in January 2013. A steering committee, open to all, had been set up and 5 meetings held to check progress against the project plan.

The weather had been bad for fieldwalking, but in fact the coverage was about the same as usual. The Reservoir Field had been completed and work continued at Cambridge Road and Eight Elms Farms. A group was researching documents, the first action on the plan, and it was hoped to finish this to plan; and Richard Cushing was investigating aerial photographs. Peter Cornelissen was developing an invaluable website database. Peter Dight and a group led by him had produced spectacular results from metal detecting requested by the National Trust and were thanked for the amount of work carried out. Pottery already collected had been assessed by Paul Blinkhorn, who reported a fantastic collection.

Terry encouraged members to keep putting information on the website. Test pits were due to be dug from 20 to 28 July; at present the plan was to stay outside the scheduled areas. Geophysics equipment was to be borrowed from Jigsaw over the same period.

Training from Jigsaw and Cambridge Community Heritage (CCH) was proving quite successful, and a reminder was given of the CCH course on digital archives, on which the Group had one place.

Work so far was about on schedule.

The President commented on the worthwhile nature of the project, and the report was accepted, on the proposal of John Waterhouse, seconded by Dudley Pusey.

#### 6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts had been circulated and Bill Hughes had now examined and certified them as correct. The treasurer commented that the level of membership was almost the same as in the previous year and that the Group seemed on course to be able to maintain funds at a level to continue to award bursaries. On the proposal of Robert Skeen, seconded by Rodney Scarle, the accounts were accepted.

The schedule of assets, physically checked by the treasurer, had also been circulated. Bill Hughes had not made a check, but saw no reason to doubt the schedule.

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

## 7. CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments to the Constitution had been circulated in November 2012, and further amendments were proposed as a result of comments received. The Constitution with all proposed amendments highlighted had been circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that Clause 10 as printed was incomplete; the last word should read "quorum".

Richard Cushing drew attention to Clause 15, the distribution of assets in the event of the Group folding, as when this was first proposed in relation to HLF requirements, there had been a feeling that Val Whittaker's bequest should be kept separate and treated differently from other assets. He thought this was covered by the wording, but asked for a specific statement that the bequest would always be kept separate in the accounts.

The treasurer reminded members that the original bequest would disappear as awards were made, and that one of the agreed objectives was to top up the bequest fund so that the Group could continue to encourage interest in archaeology through the award of bursaries. Richard, however, suggested that the matter could be reconsidered if the fund dropped to zero.

On the proposal of Richard Cushing, seconded by Bill Hughes and by 8 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions, it was **RESOLVED** that Clause 15 of the Constitution be read that Val Whittaker's bequest be treated as separate in the accounts for 3 years and be reviewed during that time.

On the proposal of John Waterhouse, seconded by Terry Dymott, it was **RESOLVED**, with one abstention, that the Constitution as now presented and with the codicil just agreed, be adopted.

## 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

On the recommendation of the committee, and on the proposal of Peter Dight, seconded by Adam Lister, it was **RESOLVED** that subscriptions for 2013/14 (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013) be increased to:

- £10 for individual membership
- £15 family membership
- Entrance to lectures for non-members £1 (no change)

## 9. 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 John Holloway, seconded by Gill Shapland, it was **RESOLVED** that the following be elected to the offices indicated for 2013/14:

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

10. **ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS**

The amendments to Clause 5 of the Constitution having been accepted, the meeting was invited to elect an examiner of the accounts. Bill Hughes did not wish to continue this role and Richard Cushing offered to take it on for one year. On the proposal of Bill Hughes, seconded by Colin Coates and Peter Dight, it was **RESOLVED** that Richard Cushing be elected examiner of the accounts for 2013/14.

The President expressed the Group’s thanks to Bill Hughes for his much appreciated work.

11. **JIGSAW DRAWING WORKSHOPS**

Names were collected of five members seriously interested in learning to draw finds or improve their skills.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter Dight expressed disappointment that no mention had been made of writing up previous Wimpole excavations. It had been said that this was waiting on the identification of pottery, but this had now been received, and he therefore asked when the writing-up would happen. The President agreed that this was a good point as fieldwork should be reported.

Terry Dymott advised that the object of the HLF project was to achieve a result in the form of reporting to local people, visitors, etc., and the grant specifically excluded funding for publication in an academic journal. However, the intention was to produce a full report on Wimpole after the end of the project.

Richard Cushing added that there was concern among several of the Group about the lack of reports for previous years, and suggested the need for a discussion on this at another time. The President recommended a meeting between the relevant people internally as a first step; but commented that there was always a reason why people raised questions.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

*Please note: these minutes will not be offered for confirmation as a correct record until the AGM in April 2014*