

Lancashire Parish Register Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Reception Room, the Central Library, Manchester, 1pm
Saturday 26 April 2008

Council members present

Thomas Woodcock (President), Alan Kenwright, Colin Rogers, Phil Stringer, Ken Taylor, Richard Bond, Tom O'Brien, Neil Hudson, Simon Oliver, Dr John Perkins, John Dalton, Rev Thomas Steel, Douglas Wilson

LPRS members present

Jackie Roberts, also William Worthington (Lancashire FHS at Preston)

The President voiced the condolences of the meeting to Paul Dwerryhouse and to his family on the death of Lesley who along with Paul has been such a very great help to the Society

1. **Apologies:** Marnie Mason, Paul Dwerryhouse, Simon Jelf, Katherine and Peter Elwood, Tony Foster
2. **Minutes of the AGM held 23 April 2007:** These were agreed as a true record after amendments as follows. Under 5 in relation to Stretford 1837 not 1857 is the end date and replace 'he thought that it' by 'which', in relation to Ormskirk replace 'As a result 'to the present volume' by 'The proposed volume '
3. **Matters arising:** Richard Bond also deals with email/website enquiries, agreed
4. **Treasurer:** The accounts to 31 December 2007 were presented and accepted unanimously with thanks. Balances have decreased by £9000 during the year due to costs of publications. Donations from the Earl of Derby and West Lancs District Council are towards Ormskirk. The value of the CAF Growth Fund at 31 December was approx £32000. Insurance no longer with FFHS but with an independent company for a less premium, there is cover for equipment and books in Council members homes. Manchester Central Library and Barrow CRO host free of charge a display stand with membership application forms and LPRS pencils. Storage at Bolton is the cheapest available; if any member can offer space to store stock it would relieve the Society of the annual cost. The new book scanner significantly speeds up recording Postage is a significant item, both inland and particularly overseas by comparison with subscriptions
5. **Membership:** Up to 60 members did not renew, assumed because of the increased subscription, means we have more stock in hand to sell! Better administratively to have the subscription increase only occasionally, as we have done. **Resigned:** T Arkwright, P Bennett, R Booth, JRE Borron, Mrs. PA Clarke, RH Crossley, Mrs JE Gouldson, RN Hull, JK and Mrs H Weston. **Died:** Alan Lawson, Harold Spencer and Leslie Tanner. **New Members:** Anthony Ashcroft, John Ashurst, Jonathan Barker, Mrs. Wendy Batchlor, Alan A Bibby, Mrs Janet Blaydon, SJ Bradley, Mrs Audrey Clarke, Paul Fletcher, Mrs JM Guy, Mrs. A Harrison, Ms Pamela A Heilman, Dr K Horsefield, Mrs P Jessop, Peter M Lowe, William L McKinneley, Ms Barbara Rentenbach, John Rodgers, L Sephton, Paul Sutcliffe, Miss Dyanna M Swindlehurst, Raymond J Thornber, Alan Watson.

The Membership report was approved unanimously and thanks were expressed to Alan, who now retires as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, for all his work so willingly undertaken

6. **Honorary General Editor's Report:** Alan presented a comprehensive review of volumes ready for publication, progress with other volumes, a table of six levels of register transcription and an assessment of future developments. Sherratts had now been dispensed with for binding, excellent work done for us but not advanced technically enough to compete in price. The current printers, Dolman Scott of Bristol, carry through all stages of printing and binding at a competitive price, £3450 for Volume 167 including a one off payment of £250 for a new block for our crest, the old block having become seriously worn. The Editor's proposals for our next publications are Volume 168 Stretford 1598-1781, Volume 169 Todmorden 1813-1837 (£2500 donations offered towards the cost) and Volume 170 Ormskirk (donations of £1000 in hand). Agreed that the Editor should proceed with this schedule of publication

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There followed discussion on carrying registers through beyond 1840, agreed that this is often desirable, particularly where it fits with the sequence of registers in a parish; we should publish beyond 1837 where appropriate. The General Editor recommends we concentrate on thicker volumes and CDs. At present a volume of 460 pages gives us optimum advantage on postal costs.

As regards Billinge, Douglas Browning to be contacted, expected to be in England shortly. As regards Leyland, out of courtesy Neil Hudson has contacted the Record Society who agree to our reissuing their published volume, sharing copyright in the CD, Neil to pursue further. Thomas Steel agreed to chase up the missing incumbent's consent for Birch in Rusholme. Ken Taylor reported that Manchester would not send an original register to Wigan RO for transcription there; Richard Bond confirms this is now policy, ie not to send registers off site.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed by the President to Alan for his work and reports.

- 7 **Neil Hudson followed up the Treasurer's remarks on postage** and there was discussion on sending out a package of volumes rather than always single volumes, also whether we might on notice charge overseas members the high cost of their postage by imposing a premium on their subscriptions. Agreed these matters be left with Council members concerned for decision at their discretion during the year. Should there be a decision to retain volumes in hand for multiple posting the extra cost of storage is £11 monthly a pallet
- 8 **Fiche and CD sales.** Fiche sales are down and CD sales are soaring, discussed and agreed that we concentrate on production of CDs. It may be that Paul Dwerryhouse would appreciate another volunteer to work with him; in the first place to be left with Paul who may have someone in mind. The meeting was assured by Phil and Tom that master copies are kept against possible loss/degradation of stock
- 9 **Error in Volume 166,** noted that Ron Smith still appeared as a Council member, template now corrected, almost impossible to pick up every change
- 10 **Election of Officers.** Mrs. Jackie Roberts was proposed as Treasurer of the Society by Alan Kenwright, seconded by Neil Hudson and agreed unanimously. All other officers being willing to stand, agreed that they be reelected en bloc. Council currently has a full complement of 16, no changes
- 11 **Independent Examiner:** The new treasurer said she had someone in mind to approach, an acquaintance who has worked as Official Receiver
- 12 **Any Other Business.** A recent article in the *Genealogists Magazine* advocating (re)normalisation of antique spellings (other than surnames) was put under the spotlight by Colin Rogers. Agreed that we persevere with our policy of transcribing the records wherever practicable as we find them. There were requests that these minutes might be circulated within the near future, also that they might appear on the Society's webpage, the last agreed provided that they are clearly marked as draft minutes only. Alan suggested that those Council members (currently five) who have served more than twenty years might be honoured by some acknowledgment, say life membership. John Perkins pointed out that both long service and offices held are clear to all from our handbook entries. Those affected expressed the sentiment that their continued acceptance by the membership was honour enough!
- 13 **A vote of thanks to the Central Library** was agreed unanimously for the use of the Reception Room for our meeting
- 14 **Date of next meeting:** Agreed for Saturday 25 April 2009, 1pm at the Manchester Central Library