

KENT HISTORY FEDERATION

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at 1.00 pm on Monday 3 June 2019,
in the Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LQ

Present

Mrs Jackie Grebby (Chairman and Editor), Dr Maurice Raraty (Vice-President and Vice-Chairman), Revd Dr Peter Rowe (President, Acting Secretary and Reviews Editor), Dr Tim Moreton (Kent Portrait Survey), Mr Richard Linning (KHF Executive Committee), Mrs Jenny Blackburn (KHF Executive Committee), Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh (KHF Executive Committee), and 21 representatives of affiliated societies.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Mr Robin Thomas (Treasurer), Dr John Whyman (Personal Member), Mr Andrew Moffat (Fawkham and Shorne) and Mrs Ann Watkins (Dartford).

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 June 2018

Dr Susan Pittman, seconded by Mrs Jacqui Linning, proposed that the minutes be approved as drawn. This was agreed unanimously. The minutes were then signed by Mrs Grebby.

3. Matters arising (not dealt with anywhere else in the Agenda of this meeting)

None.

4. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 4 March 2019

Mrs Jenny Blackburn, seconded by Dr Susan Pittman, proposed that the minutes be approved as drawn. This was agreed unanimously. The minutes were then signed by Mrs Grebby.

5. Matters arising (not dealt with anywhere else in the Agenda of this meeting)

None.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mr Robin Thomas, the Treasurer, had sent his apologies to the meeting, but had provided the meeting with a set of Accounts of the Federation to cover the year commencing 1 April 2018, annexed to which was a note bringing the financial position of the Federation up to date as at the date of the meeting. These were distributed at the meeting. Dr Peter Rowe offered to try to answer any questions anybody had on the Accounts, but in the event none were asked. He pointed out that there was an apparent discrepancy in the Accounts, which he had raised with Mr Thomas. The net assets as at 31 March 2019 were given as £8992.49, whereas from the earlier figures in the column (£9326.49 – £350.00) one would have expected a net assets figure of £8976.49, a discrepancy of £16.00. Dr Rowe had emailed Mr Thomas to ask about this. Mr Thomas replied: 'The petty cash amount of £16.00 is held by Jackie [Mrs Grebby] and she will either have spent this (in addition to the £15.19 shown as paid out of the account with Santander [appearing in the Note attached to the Accounts]) or will spend it before everything is wound up, so I am happy with and would not change the figures.'

A resolution that the Accounts for 2018/19 be approved was moved by Dr Nick Hudd and seconded by Richard Linning, and approved unanimously

The Accounts and Note are attached to these minutes.

7. Election of Officers, the Executive Committee, and the representative of the Federation to BALH

As explained in greater detail in the Agenda, there were no nominations for any of the posts to which people would ordinarily be elected, as it was anticipated that the Federation was going to agree to its dissolution later in the meeting.

8. Chairman's Report including report on matters specified in the Resolution passed at the 4 March quarterly meeting

Mrs Grebby said that she did not want to go over recent events which had led to the forthcoming demise of the Kent History Federation, but did want to thank very warmly all those who had contributed to the Federation's life down the years, especially those who had served as officers or as members of the executive committee.

As everybody had already seen the copy of the Report she was about to give (it had been attached to the Agenda sent out a month before the meeting), and as no changes needed to be made to it, she suggested that it be set out in full in the minutes, but be taken as read at the meeting. This was agreed.

Accordingly, Mrs Grebby was deemed to have made the formal report pursuant to the 4 March Resolution in these terms:

This Report is made on behalf of the officers and executive committee of the Kent History Federation as required in the Resolution passed at the Federation's 4 March 2019 quarterly meeting. It concerns all the steps already taken or still to be taken by them to give effect to the orderly dissolution of the Federation.

I use sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 3 of that Resolution as headings in what follows, and then will have a final heading to cover all other relevant matters.

(a) ceasing to publish the Journal of Kent History (the March 2019 issue of which will be its last issue)

No steps have been taken to prepare an issue of the *Journal* to be published in September 2019.

(b) making arrangements (if any are reasonably practicable) for another publication catering for local historians in the historic County of Kent to continue to publish articles and reviews of books of interest to such local historians, and to contain news of and advertisements concerning local history societies in Kent, provided that no officer or executive committee member of the KHF shall have any ongoing obligations in respect of any such matters

It has not been possible to make any such arrangements. That said, the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) already publish *Archaeologia Cantiana* and a Newsletter, containing articles and reviews of books of interest to the local historians of the historic county of Kent. There are other regularly issued local history publications of both county and national interest. Affiliated societies will need to consult all relevant publishers concerning the publication of news about society activities.

(c) making arrangements (if any are reasonably practicable) for another body to maintain the Speakers' List such that that body becomes totally responsible for it in future

KAS has agreed in principle to take over the Federation's Speakers' List, and access to it will probably be wider than is now the case. It is anticipated that it will be available to all KAS members. To obtain access to it, current members of and societies affiliated to the Federation should apply to KAS for membership of KAS. The link to the relevant KAS website page is: <https://kentarchaeology.org.uk/index.php/join-kas>.

(d) settling all the KHF's outstanding debts (including sorting out once and for all the non-invoicing of hire charges by County Hall for quarterly meetings held there over several recent years)

Kent County Council have confirmed to the Federation that there are no outstanding charges due to County Hall for meetings held there over the past few years. A modest fee is to be paid

to renew the Federation's website for two more years. Individuals who have already subscribed for future copies of the *Journal* which will not now be published will be reimbursed as appropriate, and given details about KAS and its publications in case they are of interest. Otherwise, the only other anticipated debts are any outstanding payments due to printers, etc, for the *Journal* and any further expenses claimed by officers of the Federation.

(e) reimbursing any subscribers for copies of the Journal whose subscriptions would still have been in place if the publication of the Journal were not being discontinued

This exercise is in hand.

(f) in due course destroying such papers of the KHF which they deem no longer reasonably necessary to retain, and making arrangements for the archiving in an appropriate repository of such papers as they decide are of permanent interest (such as agendas and minutes, and a complete run of the Journal of Kent History

The Federation's President, Peter Rowe, who has acted as Secretary for the Federation for the last few years, will liaise with me and Robin Thomas, our Treasurer, concerning these matters and, in due course, will file with an appropriate repository the relevant records of the Federation. In respect of financial records, including bank statements, it is proposed that these should be kept by the Treasurer for at least six years, in case any queries arise.

(g) if any are applied for pursuant to Paragraph 9 of the KHF's constitution, making grants or loans as therein provided to any affiliated society of the KHF

No such applications for grants or loans have been received.

(h) distributing all remaining assets of the KHF to such Kent local history-related charity or charities as the current officers and executive committee of the KHF deem appropriate, giving due consideration to (but not being bound by) any suggestions in that regard made by members of the KHF

It has been decided to split all the Federation's remaining assets equally between the Allen Grove Local History Fund (the objects of which are to promote research, preservation and enjoyment of local history), administered by KAS, and the Ian Coulson Fund (which helps post-graduate students undertaking research in the local history of Kent), administered by Canterbury Christ Church University. The timing of such distribution, which may be made by instalments, will be governed by progress made in finalising the Federation's financial affairs.

Other miscellaneous matters

The Federation's website

As mentioned earlier, the Federation's subscription for its website is to be renewed for another two years. I have spoken to Chris Broomfield of KAS, who was confident that it could be run in tandem with the KAS site until it could be assimilated.

Kent Portrait Survey

It is not anticipated that this will be continued by any third party.

Forwarding of emails

The email addresses that are currently rerouted will have to have notices about the dissolution applied rather than forwarding them as they are now.

Ongoing reporting of what is being done to dissolve the Federation, including publication of final accounts?

I anticipate that the Federation's website carry relevant information in the period between the AGM and the final winding up of all the Federation's affairs.

No questions were raised nor were any comments made.

Accordingly, the following resolution (**Resolution 1**) was then put to the meeting:

RESOLVED THAT the Kent History Federation do formally adopt and ratify all the steps taken or to be taken by the current officers and executive committee of the KHF as set out in the Chairman's Report to the meeting (made pursuant to the Resolution passed at the Federation's 4 March 2019 quarterly meeting).

Proposer: Mrs Jackie Grebby; Seconder: Revd Dr Peter Rowe

Resolution 1 was then passed with 27 votes in favour, 0 against, with 1 abstention.

9. Dissolution of the Kent History Federation

Without anyone indicating the need for any further discussion, the following resolution (**Resolution 2**) was then put to the meeting:

RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 10 of the Constitution there be added a new Paragraph 11 to the Constitution to read as follows:

'11. DISSOLUTION — A resolution to dissolve the Federation may be put at an annual general meeting of the Federation including (for the avoidance of doubt) at the annual general meeting at which this Paragraph 11 was added to the Constitution (being that held on Monday 3 June 2019), provided that such resolution to dissolve is approved by at least two thirds of those present and voting.'

Proposer: Mrs Jackie Grebby; Seconder: Revd Dr Peter Rowe

Resolution 2 was then passed with 27 votes in favour, 0 against, with 1 abstention.

As Resolution 2 had been passed, the following resolution (**Resolution 3**) was then put to the meeting:

RESOLVED THAT the Kent History Federation be dissolved with effect from the end of the annual general meeting held on 3 June 2019, and that notwithstanding such dissolution the provisions of Paragraph 3 of the Resolution passed at the quarterly meeting of the Federation passed at its meeting on Monday 4 March 2019 shall continue in force such that the current officers and executive committee of the Federation shall continue to have power to take all remaining necessary steps to give effect to the orderly dissolution of the Federation.

Proposer: Mrs Jackie Grebby; Seconder: Revd Dr Peter Rowe

Resolution 3 was then passed with 27 votes in favour, 0 against, with 1 abstention.

10. Reports

11.0 Kent Archives and Local History Service (KALHS)

A report was received and is attached..

10.2 Medway Archives Centre (MAC)

No report was received

10.3 Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre

A report was received and is attached.

10.4 CPRE Kent Historic Buildings Committee

Dr Susan Pittman referred to her letter on p.7 of the March 2019 issue of the *Journal of Kent History*, in which she had written

Whatever the fate of the KHF, the Kent Historic Buildings Committee would like to keep in touch. Historic and especially unlisted buildings are constantly under threat of demolition or ruination or unsympathetic developments in their setting. We are only a small team and rely on others to be our eyes and ears throughout the County. Contact us for advice and assistance with any heritage asset related issues in your neighbourhood. To learn more about us and support our work, please consider joining CPRE Kent. W: www.cprekent.org.uk; E: khbc@cprekent.org.uk

10.5 University of Kent

A report was received and is attached.

10.6 CCCU, Centre for Kent History and Heritage

A report was received and is attached.

10.7 University of Greenwich

No report was received.

10.8 Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)

A report was received and is attached.

10.9 British Association for Local History

A report was received and is attached.

10.10 Workers' Educational Association

A report was received and it is attached,

11. Societies' publications

Dr Susan Pittman told the meeting of her most recent book, *The Lee Family — Farmers at Crockenhill, Kent. Early Advocates of the Cold Storage of Fruit*. Its price is £12.00 and may be obtained from Dr Susan Pittman (27 Old Chapel Road, Crockenhill, Swanley BR8 8LL), or from Crockenhill Parish Council, Village Hall, Stones Cross Road, Crockenhill, Swanley BR8 8LT.

13. Any other business

Dr Rowe spoke about his involvement with the Kent History Federation, beginning in 1992 when he became Editor of the *Journal of Kent History*, a post he had held for a dozen years. He later became Reviews Editor and had also gone on to be in turn Vice Chairman, Chairman, Vice President and then President of the Federation, in the last few years serving also as Secretary. He remembered with affection his twenty-seven years of involvement with the Federation, and was more sorry than he could say that in the end nobody had been prepared to come forward and take its work into the future. If he had a favourite among the things done by the Federation, it was its production of the *Journal of Kent History*. The first issue, in September 1975, was edited by the late Mrs Pat Winzar, who took it on up to Issue 34 in March 1992. Issue 35 was the first under Dr Rowe's editorship, and he mentioned that he had worked to increase as far as possible the number of book reviews appearing in the *Journal*. His last issue was No. 58 in March 2004, since when the *Journal* had been under the editorship of Mrs Grebby. Her flair for desk-top publishing and the use of colour quickly transformed the *Journal* and made it the very good publication it had been until March 2019, when its last issue (No. 88) was published. For what it had become in recent years, all the credit was Mrs Grebby's. Dr Rowe thanked

her and all the others with whom he had served the Federation since 1992, and said he would miss them.

He singled out in particular Mrs Grebby and presented to her, paid for by members of the executive committee, but on behalf of all, a card signed by all present at the meeting, chocolates and two bottles of wine, together with a *Gertrude Jekyll* rose bush for her new home, where she was slowly getting the garden under control. She gave her thanks to all. She also thanked the Archives for allowing the last two meetings of the Federation to be held in the Kent History and Library Centre, and for the provision of refreshments on each occasion.

Dr Maurice Raraty asked how access might be obtained in the future to copies of the *Journal of Kent History*. Mrs Grebby explained that some of the copies were already available in digital form, and that she hoped in due course to complete the task of scanning all the issues.

Dr Susan Pittman expressed her own thanks for all that the Kent History Federation had done and said it would really be missed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed just after 1.50 pm.

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Chairman

Date:

After a break for tea and coffee, and biscuits, there followed presentations on *Horatia Nelson* by Dr Nick Hudd (Tenterden) and on the *Graveney Boat* by Dr Charles Turner (Faversham).

Attachments to these minutes

- Minute 6 KHF Accounts 2018/19 with Note.
- Minute 10.1 Kent Archives and Local History Service
- Minute 10.3 Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre
- Minute 10.5 University of Kent
- Minute 10.6 CCCU, Centre for Kent History and Heritage
- Minute 10.8 Kent Archaeological Society
- Minute 10.9 British Association for Local History Report
- Minute 10.10 Workers' Educational Association Report

Kent History Federation

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

	2019	2018
<i>Income and expenditure</i>	£	£
<i>Income</i>		
Affiliation Fees and Donations	600.00	1695.00
Donation from the Council for Kentish Archaeology	989.58	nil
Day Conferences Canterbury / Sandwich	819.50	2602.00
Bank Interest	42.44	26.92
<i>Journal</i> including advertising	1496.70	1780.40
	3948.22	6104.32
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Administration, printing, postage and website	— 433.45	— 394.86
Hall hire	nil	nil
<i>Journal</i>	— 2690.97	— 2699.09
Insurance	— 75.00	— 75.00
Donation	nil	nil
Day Conference	— 1909.18	— 2434.54
	— 5108.60	— 5603.49
<i>Surplus / (Deficit) for year</i>	— 1160.38	500.83
Balance at beginning of year	10486.87	9986.04
Balance at end of year	9326.49	10486.87
<i>Held as</i>		
Santander Current Account	3450.60	4669.42
Santander Deposit Account	78.65	77.83
National Savings Account	5781.24	5739.62
Cash	16.00	nil
	9326.49	10486.87
<i>Amounts due for payment</i>		
Hall hire – estimated	nil	— 1330.00
<i>Amounts received / paid in advance</i>		
Canterbury Visit	nil	— 1207.00
Expenses – annual conference	nil	nil
<i>Journal of Kent History</i> prepaid (estimate)	— 350.00	— 350.00
Affiliation fees 2019/20 (2018/19)	nil	— 1050.00
Net assets as at 31 March 2019	8992.49	6549.87

Robin Thomas Treasurer

30 April 2019

See the Note on the next page for position as at 1 June 2019

Position as at 1 June 2019

<i>Balance at Santander at 1 April 2019</i>		3450.60
Jackie Grebby	expenses	— 15.19
Rainham	journals	10.00
Lyminge	journals	3.75
From Santander Deposit account		78.65
to closure	interest	0.28
KAS	advert	12.00
Charing & District	advert	12.00
<i>Balance at Santander at 29 April 2019</i>		3552.09
From	NSI	5781.24
From NSI to closure	interest	15.21
<i>Assets at 1 June 2019</i>	at Santander	9348.54

From this we need to deduct:

1. Repayment to *Journal* subscribers for unused balance of 2 year subscriptions;
2. Expenses to closure, including fee for retention of website.

This should not exceed £500 so balance of around £8800 should be available for distribution as agreed at the 2019 AGM.

RT 1 June 2019