

**Unadopted Minutes of the 13th PLACE AGM, held at 11.30 am on Saturday 13th
May 2017 in the Parish Centre, Beverley.**

1. **Present:** Chris Adams, Nicola and Chris Aiken, Michael Archer, Margaret Atherden, Linda Blenkinship, Aileen Bloomer, Roger Boulton, John Brown, John Collins, Anthony Crawshaw, Clive Dawson, Kathleen and Anthony Dearden, Jean Dixon, Sonia Donaghy, Lynne Duncan, Mary Fairbrother, Sue and Chris Ford, Tina Funnell, Christine Hardaker, David Hawtin, John Hopton, Helen Kitson, Adrian Koster, Doreen Leach, Susan Lee, Karen Lee, Richard Leggott, George Malcolm, Philip Mander, Paddie Morrison, Hilary Moxon, Richard Myerscough, Betty Rumsby, Denis Sawyer, George Sheeran, Vic Smith, Christine Tranmer, Sylvia Voisk, Irene Walton, Christine and John Watts, Elaine Wisdom.

Apologies for absence: Jackie Ashcroft, Margaret Bastow, Barbara Hickman, Anthony and Margaret Hammersley, Michael Hopkinson, Richard and Denny Mallows, John and Vivien Mothersill, Nan Sykes, Brian Walker, Veronica Wallace, Rita Wood.

In attendance: Sue Campagna.

2. **Minutes of the 12th AGM held in Middleham on 7th May 2016:** Elaine Wisdom proposed and Jean Dixon seconded that the Minutes should be accepted as a true record. They were accepted *nem con*.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** There was none.
4. **Presentation of the Annual Report for 2016:** The Chief Executive, Margaret Atherden, introduced the annual report and drew particular attention to the following points:
 - Membership: the PLACE membership fee was deliberately held at £5 to make it accessible to as many members as possible. Prices were intended to reflect the current and prospective economic situation.
 - Research: the project on Yorkshire Villages, coordinated by Michael Hopkinson, had been completed and a splendid book had been produced. Research into the vegetation at May Moss continued, producing good evidence about the effects of climate change. PLACE members were welcome to join this research. Research grants had been awarded to James Lyall (survey of land near Glebe Farm, Octon), Roger Inman (training for archaeology at Kildale Manor), Helen Kitson (research costs associated with book on wild flower sites in East Yorkshire) and Ray Goulder (research for a book on Yorkshire Canals). It was expected that the latter two would result in PLACE publications.
 - Two conferences were held: one on the theme of Yorkshire Woodlands and one on the Yorkshire Wolds. However, it had been observed that it was increasingly difficult to organise conferences, because of the pressures facing possible speakers and their other commitments.
 - The AGM had been held in Middleham, which offered an excellent venue but was difficult for members using public transport. PLACE would bear this factor in mind when organising future meetings.
 - There had been two short courses, one entitled “Curtain Up!” on Stage and Screen and one on the Northern Saints. Neither had recruited particularly well, but the forthcoming short course on the Viking Yorkshire, led again by Robert Wright, was recruiting well. PLACE continues to be grateful to Robert for his contribution.

- Publications: The proceedings of the 2014 autumn conference, on *Yorkshire's Religious Heritage c. 1780-c. 1910* were published, as were those of the 2015 autumn conference on *Famous Geologists of Yorkshire*. The results of the research into Yorkshire Villages were also published as *Approaching the Village*. It is intended to follow the successful *PLACE Book of Winter Walks* with one on *Woodland Walks* in 2019.
- Membership stood at 273, a slight decrease on the previous year. One possibility was that people simply forgot to renew their membership so the Chief Executive warned that she may need to become stricter about her reminders.
- Partner Organisations: Because several partner organisations found it increasingly difficult to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings, PLACE was now appointing PLACE members to act as links with the organisations concerned.
- Financial review: It had been agreed to terminate the lease for the printer and switch to using the Chief Executive's own printer. PLACE purchased the cartridges.
Reserves stood at £14,577.
- Strategic Objectives: All had been achieved, though it was noted that there were fewer activities in South Yorkshire than in other areas. PLACE depended on members to organise events.

No questions were raised. Clive Dawson proposed and Sylvia Voisk seconded that the report should be accepted. The Chairman thanked Margaret Atherden for her work throughout the year.

5. **Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2016.**

- In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chief Executive presented the Annual Accounts. She explained that the wording was required by international accountancy regulations. She particularly wanted to draw attention to the voluntary work preparing the accounts by Sue Campagna.
- The Chairman invited questions. There was an enquiry about point 12 on page 12, concerning the use to be made of the funds in the event of PLACE's dissolution. The Chief Executive replied that the Trustees would re-direct the funds in accordance with the requirements outlined.

6. **Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts:** Chris Aiken proposed and Christine Watts seconded and the meeting accepted the Accounts *nem.con.*

7. **Election of trustees.** The following trustees retired by rotation and offered themselves for re-election:

- Ann Hilary Moxon (proposed by Irene Young and seconded by Chris Adams)
- Brian Walker (nominated by Veronica Wallace and seconded by Jackie Ashcroft)

They were both re-elected. The following trustee retired by rotation and did not wish to stand for re-election: Christine Handley. Cath Neal also retired as a Trustee. The Chairman expressed the gratitude of PLACE to Christine and Cath for their contributions.

Two nominations had been received to fill the vacancies:

- Linda Blenkinship (nominated by Michael Hopkinson and seconded by Aileen Bloomer)
- David Christopher Hawtin (nominated by Lesley Boot and seconded by Margaret Atherden)

The Chairman declared Linda and David elected.

8. **Appointment of accountant for 2017-18:** Sue Campagna was nominated by Chris Adams and seconded by Michael Archer and was re-appointed *nem con.*
9. **Possibility of PLACE converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation:**
 - A paper from the Treasurer was circulated. The Chairman informed the meeting that, currently, PLACE was responsible to the Charity Commission as a charity and to Companies House as a limited company. The Charity Commission had created new templates for different charities, of which a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation” (CIO) might suit PLACE. It would reduce unnecessary administration but she assured the meeting that it would not involve any reduction in scrutiny. The facility for charities to transfer directly was currently under development.
 - This suggestion was under investigation and, if any change was deemed in PLACE’s interests, it would be brought to the 2017-18 AGM, with advance information about the implications. No decision was required at this AGM. The Chairman invited comments. The Chief Executive said that, if PLACE decided to pursue this avenue, it was hoped to use the direct transfer so that it would not be necessary to dissolve the organisation. Tina Funnell said that, from her experience with another organisation, it was an excellent idea. Tina Funnell proposed and Adrian Koster seconded that PLACE should pursue this. It was carried *nem.con.* with one abstention.
10. **Programme of PLACE events for 2017-18 (Chairman):**
 - The Chair drew attention to future events planned for PLACE.
11. **Any other business**
 - The Chief Executive informed the meeting that one event (the Geology Trail) had a limited number of places and was now full.
 - She drew the meeting’s attention to the fact that there was a need for at least 20 for the Ampleforth Abbey visit on 13th June and that, to date, 17 had expressed an interest.
 - Chris Ford commented that it had been difficult to hear the speaker on the Hull visit. The Chair suggested that it might be possible to invest in a portable microphone.
 - Sue Ford enquired about the problem with submission of the annual accounts to Companies House. She was informed that submission had to be by post, not on-line, as PLACE has no shareholders.
12. **Date and Venue of the next AGM:** The Chief Executive announced that the venue would probably be Skipton in May 2018.

The Chairman thanked all members of the Board of Trustees and especially Margaret Atherden, the Chief Executive. She also thanked members for their continuing support.

The meeting closed at 12.15.

Hilary Moxon, Minutes Secretary