

CUMBRIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 19th November 2011, at Rheged

MINUTES (Bryan Gray in the Chair)

1. Bryan Gray welcomed members to our second AGM. Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Clark, Kevin Lancaster, Richard Robinson, Jim Palmer, Mark Blackett-Ord, Robert Salkeld, Lady Caroline Lonsdale, Stephen read, the Levens Local History Group, Lord Judd, Michael Lea, Sir Martin Holdgate, Arthur Sanderson, Jean Bryson, Marion McClintock
2. 38 members were in attendance.
3. **Election of Officers:** there being no other nominations, it was noted and approved that the officers of the Trust until the next following Annual General Meeting will be those nominated by the Trustees under clause 5.4 of the Constitution, namely - Chair Bryan Gray; Secretary Richard Brockington; Treasurer John Garside
4. **Election of Trustees:** there being no other nominations, it was agreed (nem con) that the three trustees elected in 2010 be re-elected to serve until the next Annual General Meeting, namely - Tiffany Hunt, Marion McClintock, June Hall
5. **Annual Report:** Bryan Gray spoke to the Annual Report and the appended Amended Project Plan and Progress Report. Thanks to the generosity of members and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society the Trust is in a good financial position. We are making a payment to Lancaster University for the services of our Director Angus Winchester and are also able to engage Dr Sarah Rose on a half-time contract as volunteer coordinator. The Trust is getting good value for money with people of high quality at the head of the project. Good progress has been made on the Trust website, largely thanks to the efforts of Dr Bill Shannon, trustee nominated by CWAAS. In due course the web site will be populated with the completed research, and will become increasingly informative and powerful resource for research. The trustees are keen to hear from our members with ideas to enhance it further. The Trust is also making good progress on training programmes for volunteers; Marion McClintock (elected trustee) has agreed to manage this work, and the Trust has applied successfully for further grant aid from RDPE (80% of £8,000). The first training sessions will begin in December 2011. In short overall progress and academic leadership are excellent, and our main challenge is to expand the funding base: the trustees will be grateful for any suggestion from the membership in that regard. Bryan expressed gratitude for the support received from all trustees and in particular his fellow officers - Richard Brockington and Rob Matthews who now retires after two years of hard work setting up the basic financial systems of the Trust.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Rob Matthews presented his final report as treasurer. He was leaving office with the Trust finances in a healthy state, having now completed amongst other things the procedures for recovering gift aid on members' subscriptions. His report was approved with applause. Further applause was given to Bryan Gray for his work as chairman.
7. **Address by Dr Angus Winchester, Director VCH Cumbria:** Angus summarised the progress on research so far using data projection to show the kind of guidance given to volunteers and the townships currently being studied. He stressed that everybody, including himself, was in a learning phase, and Cumbria may be leading the way nationally in demonstrating how VCH work can be done by volunteers under academic supervision. He paid particular tribute to the support of the Cumbria Archive Service. His address was followed by excellent and highly informative presentations by **David Bowcock**, assistant county archivist, on the Lowther Archive held at Carlisle Archive Centre; and by **Margaret Gowling** on her experience as volunteer team leader for Brough-under-Stanemore.