

Friends of Weaver Hall Museum

AGM

19th October 2023

John Glaister - Chair and Treasurer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Carol Allen.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting -

These were made available on the website before the meeting.

The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

3. Chairs Report -

John explained:

- 2022/23 was the first full year after Covid and we managed to get the 'Talk' and 'Film' sessions restarted thanks to the efforts of Deborah Dignum and Carol Allen
- Unfortunately, we had to work through two significant disruptions. Firstly, several trustees had to withdraw due to health/personal problems, which had left a significant gap in the committee, fortunately now filled. Secondly, our usual meeting room was taken over by the library and we had to use the small schoolroom and the 'Regalette' which are less than ideal.
- Subscriptions accumulated during the Covid year allowed us to fund the purchase of Viking artefacts used extensively by the museum for education purposes. A further donation is being proposed the current financial year.
- Membership declined during Covid but remained over 100 so we could continue to support the museum. Attendance at Talks and Film was similarly reduced bringing their viability into question. After much discussion, the trustees elected to raise the annual subscription for 2023/24 so that we could continue supporting the activities of the museum as well as run talks and films for the members.
- £1000 was donated to the museum to support educational equipment for activities with school children.

4. Treasurer's Report -

John as the Treasurer stated that his report was for the period 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023.

Income: Membership income increased slightly as Covid regressed. The second biggest income was from Gift Aid. This was unclaimed for 4 years due to Covid, changes of treasurer and software issues.

Expense: The main outgoings were a donation of £1000 to the museum for the Viking artefacts and the costs of running talks and films (about £1000). Expenses slightly exceeded income. Loss = £246

Balance: Cash at year end reduced slightly to £3637.68. Some of this will be donated to the museum and some support talks and films for the members in the current financial year.

The accounts were approved - proposed by Martin Dignum and seconded by Maureen Brown.

5. Election of Trustees for 2023/2024 -

CHAIR	John Glaister
TREASURER	John Glaister
SECRETARY	Carol Allen
MEMBERSHIPS	Martin Dignum
EVENTS	Deborah Dignum
FILMS	Carol Allen
COMMITTEE	Hazel Cook
	Heather Clifford
	Peter Clifford

A request was also made for anyone who would like to become a volunteer to speak to one of the Trustees.

Appointment of trustees was approved – proposed by Wendy Milborrow and seconded by Martin Dignum.

6. Museum Report

The major activity of the museum was upgrading facilities and IT infrastructure to accommodate the library in the boardroom and associated areas. This has now been completed.

The library staff are fully integrated and working as a team with the museum and running various joint groups such as Happy Mondays and IT drop-in. There has been a major upgrade to IT for public use with public internet access.

The exhibition area was updated and hosted various school exhibitions.

Work was started on re-roofing, including a new roof internally and upgrading the education annex, which is now complete and looks very good. Cheshire County archives being moved from Chester records office.

Disparate storage facilities at Winsford are now in 3 adjacent buildings and archiving continues.

7. Any other Business

A member asked where the Cheshire records office is moving to. Possibly Winsford Industrial Estate.

8. Date of next AGM: Thursday 17th October 2024