

**Minutes of Hadstock Society AGM held at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall on 22nd November 2019**

Present: Hamish McIlwrick (Chairman), Pat Croxton-Smith (Treasurer), Richard Dolby (Secretary), Derek Bushell, Lorna Mufty, Mel Abbiss, Paula Griffiths, Roger Mance, Rick & Sue Albrow, Peter and Moira Jarritt, Robin Betser, David and Allyson Short, Brendan Birchell, Gill Butterworth, Lou Symes-Thompson, Victoria and Lara Anandraj, Jude Hannam.

Apologies: Tony and Jenny Handley, Sara Beckett

1. Minutes of 23rd November 2018 AGM

These were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report for the year to 1 October 2019

The audited accounts showed a cash surplus of £1602. Subscriptions were now due for 2020. There were a few cost items expected soon, including a payment of up to £1000 to part-fund the 2020 Millennium booklet, the participation of the S-W Museum in the history exhibition planned for September in the Church, and a contribution to the development of the new Hadstock village website.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by DB, seconded by RA and approved. TB was thanked for his audit.

3. Chairman's Report

HM explained that the Society was a member of the Campaign for Rural England and of the Uttlesford Recorders of History Group. Crocky attended meetings of the latter and submitted an annual report. There had been very few planning applications in the last year but one had been recently received for a development in Yews Farm Yard. Comments to UDC are required by 11th December 2019. The Society would be submitting its view and so far opinions were favourable, a big improvement on the current old barns.

RD then explained the progress made on 5 projects being undertaken by the Society.

Village photographs

Around 200 photographs originally held by Crocky have been digitised and a large number would put on the Society's pages of the new website. Additional photos are being sought from Society members.

On-Line collection of Crocky magazine articles

Lorna Mufty has completed the editing and complex indexing of the article series, based on RA's early draft. Some photographs will be added and then the collection put on the website.

RB said that there was further good material worth examining in past Village magazines, many of which were now housed in the Essex Records Office.

On-line recording of Place Names in the Parish

RD explained the background and progress made on the 1805 pre and post enclosure maps. RA noted that 180 place names had now been entered covering the

whole parish. There was an invitation to anyone outside the working Group who wished to help with the project.

Cataloguing of books held in the village hall

RD has completed a catalogue of 140 historical and heritage books belonging to the Society, a project started by RA. The Society will shortly publicise the completed list to members who may wish to borrow items.

Carbon 14 dating of mortar samples from St Botolph's

Advice from the Cambridge University Department of Archaeology had been sought on the interpretation of the results obtained in 2018. This advice showed that, in the case of the South wall sample, there was a 95% probability that the mortar dated to 676AD-870AD with a 75% probability that it was between 676AD-770AD. This result is significant in providing further evidence of a very early stone church in Hadstock.

4. Project priorities for 2020

RD noted the following 4 projects for the coming year:

- (i) Final editing of the compendium of Crocky's parish magazine articles.
- (ii) Supporting the Church 2020 millennium project, particularly material and artifacts for the history exhibition, production of the 2020 village booklet and providing a flower arrangement at the Flower Festival.
PG said that the Society's help was much appreciated and that the Millennium Committee would welcome further support from the Society for specific grant applications early in 2020.
- (iii) Further work concerning on-line recording of place names and fields from nineteenth century and other maps of the parish.
- (iv) The setting up a new website in co-ordination with the Parish Council and other parish organisations.

5. Election of Officers

DB proposed and RA seconded that the existing officers should be re-elected for a further year. This was agreed and the elected officers for 2020 are:

Chair: Hamish McIlwrick
Secretary: Richard Dolby
Treasurer: Patricia Croxton-Smith
Committee: Derek Bushell, Mel Abbiss, Lorna Mufty

6. AOB

There were no issues raised and the meeting was closed.

Crocky then gave an entertaining talk on village history, using some of the recently digitised photographs, which covered street views, houses, events and people of the village taken since the 1930s. There were many questions and the meeting agreed that Crocky should be asked to give a further talk using more photos from the collection.

Wine and mince pies were served to those present.