

The Beccles Society Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 at Hungate Church, Beccles, and on Zoom

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed 13 members and 2 guests present in the church and 3 members and the President Martin Bell OBE on zoom

2. Apologies were received from Chris Scott and John Sayer

3. The minutes of the previous AGM held on 12 May 2021

These were approved unanimously. There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's report

The chairman thanked Martin Bell for joining us this year by zoom.

He said that most of what he wanted to say was in the recent newsletter. In brief, he thanked Clare Mackney and Richard Sword for their work on reviewing the planning applications (there had been 2 major ones this year). The Dr Nicholson Award had been given to Willow House, but the presentation has yet to be made.

He highlighted two projects with Beccles and District Museum: from 12 July there will be an exhibition about the society; and the Visual History Project will display pictures of Old Beccles around the town.

He thanked all members of the committee for their support this year.

5. Treasurers report

Jeff Harris reported that this had been a pleasantly inactive year. The funds had been boosted by a bequest from Mr Richard Bellefontaine of £500.

The year closed with a balance of £3161.39 (see attached report).

6. Membership Report

Since Ray Poll had left the area there has been no membership secretary. The chairman and treasurer are managing this role between them. There are 56 members of which 10 are life members. More members have provided us with their email addresses so we can reduce costs on correspondence and the delivery of the newsletter. We are always seeking ways to increase our membership.

7. Election of Officers.

The President briefly took the chair for the election.

David Lindley proposed and Ray Poll seconded the motion that the officers and committee should be elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

Chairman	Paul Gurbutt
Treasurer	Jeff Harris
Minutes Secretary	Mu Gurbutt
Committee Members	Barry Darch Terry Goodwin Clare Mackney Douglas Peck Chris Scott Richard Sword

There are vacancies for Vice-chairman, Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary. Members are most welcome to join the committee.

8. AOB

Penny Lindley asked whether there are any more copies of the Beccles Revealed booklet. Paul responded that he had some, but he would consider whether more needed printing so they could be put in the Library and Museum.

Martin Bell said that he has served as President for a number of years, following his father, and that he would be happy if a younger more active replacement could be found in the future.

Paul thanked Martin for all his work for the Society.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

9. The meeting was followed with a talk by Dr Sarah Cassell on Medieval Angel Roofs of East Anglian Churches.

Sarah spoke of the many different types of angels in the roofs of the medieval churches mainly in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. What the angels held, how many wings they had and where they were located in the church all appeared to have significance. The nearest Angel roof to Beccles is that at Blythburgh where the angels are along the ridge line of the church as opposed to near the wall or on the end of a beam as in most churches.

Following questions, Paul thanked Sarah for her interesting talk, and thanked David Pitt who had assisted with the technicalities of live streaming the AGM.

Ray expressed his thanks for the zoom link which enabled him to participate from Scotland.