

ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING 9th MARCH 2022

MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM

Those Present:

Ray Franklin Chairman	Paul Salvidge	Heather Salvidge
Dave Verlander	Tim Snow	Ian Jackson
Do Hackett	Tony Bailey	Valerie Austin
Jill Hunt	Keith Hunt	Roger Clarke
Vic Dowsett	Christine Hall	Patricia Holyomes
Brian Tulley	Tony Eatson	Margaret Shaw
Teri Williams	Eileen Kay	

Secretary's Note: Unfortunately not all attendees have been listed, apologies to those who have been omitted

Apologies:

Keith Merrifield	Lynda Jolly	Roger Kendrick
Lynda Bowcock	Therese Clear	Mike Rea
Chris Bush	Diane Bush	Margaret Rea
Jill French	Helen Mudge	Kevin Wood
Jean Beeston	Ian Beeston	Peter Johnson
Sue Johnson	Campbell Dunn	Lynda Dunn
Linda Bowcock	Moyra Jackson	Phyllis Clarke
Gloria Eatson	Trevor Hackett	

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the meeting

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 10th November 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Secretary's Note: It has subsequently come to light that paragraph numbering went awry in the November minutes and has now been corrected.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual General Meeting

The Secretary opened the Annual General Meeting.

- I. The Chairman presented a review of the Society's activities over the past year.
- II. The Treasurer presented the Society accounts for the year 2021.

Secretary's Note: Copies of the Chairman's Remarks and the Society Accounts will be distributed to members with these minutes.

- III. Invitations were extended for nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

There were no nominations for these posts so the incumbents will serve for another year.

- IV. Invitations were extended for nominations for the Committee vacancies.

There were no nominations so the existing members will carry on and an election held at a later date.

Secretary's Note: To remind members, Officers and Committee members are currently:

Gordon Barker	– President
Ray Franklin	– Chairman
Dave Verlander	– Vice Chairman
Paul Salvidge	– Treasurer
Mike Rea	– Secretary
Chris Bush	– Committee and Webmaster
Heather Salvidge	– Committee
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

- V. David Verlander was, with the agreement of members present, asked to continue to serve as the Society's representative to the ECA.

There being no other matters raised by the members present the Annual General Meeting was closed and business reverted to the main agenda.

5. Speaker, Anthea Hawden

Our speaker for the evening was Anthea Hawden from Raking Light, an organisation that has been set up to provide a searchable resource for enthusiasts and researchers of historic graffiti, masons' marks, carpenters' marks, merchants' marks and protection marks. In fact, if it's old and inscribed on plaster, stone, wood or any other surface you can think of, then Raking Light are interested in it.

More information may be found on their website: <https://rakinglight.co.uk/>

6. Open Forum and Any Other Business

6.1 St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

I can report that our entry for this year's festival was well received and attracted much interest. The subject was the Railways of Elsenham and the photographs covered around a hundred years of history including the present station and the Robin Hood crossing. Our thanks go to Heather Salvidge, Joan Weyers and Brenda Davidson who decorated the tree so splendidly.

6.2 Changes to Parish Boundaries

You will be aware that the Elsenham Parish boundary has changed many times over the years and it has just changed yet again. This time the boundary has been extended to include the Henham Road development and has taken land from Henham Parish. We have just received a copy of the official order and our man of maps Dave Verlander will shortly be updating his boundary map to reflect the change.

6.3 Archaeological Investigation

Last meeting we reported that Jean Woolvin had rung us to say that archaeologists had been digging behind the cricket field in advance of the Henham Road development. We have just received a copy of the report from those investigations and a look at the introduction reveals that there was evidence of prehistoric settlements dating from the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. Following this period the land was primarily agricultural however and apart from the find of a Roman Silver Denarius there was no evidence of later settlements. There were many mediaeval field boundaries identified that accorded with evidence from 19th Century maps and later aerial photographs of crop marks.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th June 2022 . Our speaker will be Anthony Tuck who will speak about “Newport, A Great and Poor Town”

ENDS

Minutes Agreed: June 2022
Ray Franklin – Chairman

Chairmain’s Report Follows Below

Chairman's report 2022

Starting with the most recent event yesterday (march 8th) Dave Verlander and I gave a talk, entitled, "Elsenham a History," to classes at Elsenham school. i will keep the powerpoint presentation and script for future use. Since the last AGM I have completed an on-line questionnaire on our audio recordings. This was compiled by a national group who will be contacting me again.

i am in receipt of the parish boundary changes caused by the bloor homes planning application (as mentioned in 6.2 of our agenda.)

Finally i thank our treasurer, Paul for his excellent work.

Mike for fulfilling his role as secretary so well. i know he spends hours organising speakers for the society meetings.

Chris Bush for the many hours he spends updating our web site. Elsenham school were full of praise for this.

My thanks go to the entire committee for their hard work.

It has not been easy at times during covid but we get through and we must be doing something right as shown by the attendance.....thank you.