



WORTHINGTON 17th-CENTURY PROJECT

24 November 2005

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the inaugural general meeting of the Worthington 17th-Century Project held at The History Shop, Library Street, Wigan, Lancashire, at 11.00am on Thursday 24 November 2005.

Those present were:

Philip M Worthington (chairman)
Lesley Munro (treasurer)
Stephen Read
Lloyd Worthington
Robert P Worthington
William Worthington

Voting papers had also been received from:

J Griffin R Rountree
John E Shearer
Patricia G Ward
Addison Worthington
Janet R Worthington
Judith S M Worthington
Philip G Worthington
Stuart G Worthington

The voting papers were placed on the table and all comments received were read out and considered at the meeting.

Membership of the Project

IT WAS RESOLVED that each of the 18 applicants for membership of the Project, as listed in "List of Applications for Membership" dated 14 October 2005, be elected a member.

It was agreed that the Project should endeavour to increase its membership and a suggestion was made that 50 should be treated as the target number of members by September 2006. For this purpose the Project's website (www.worthingtonhistory.com) should be retained for a year; also, appropriate information should be sent to the secretaries of family history societies in English-speaking countries.

Name of the Society

IT WAS RESOLVED that the name of the society be confirmed as "Worthington 17th-Century Project".

Emblem of the Project

IT WAS RESOLVED that the emblem of the Project be confirmed as *a goat passant regardant argent before a 3-pronged dung fork sable*, as depicted at the head of these minutes.

Financial Report and Annual General Meetings

The treasurer's "Accounts for the Pilot Society from 25th May 2004 to 30th September 2005" were considered and adopted.

It was agreed that future accounts should be drawn up quarterly and distributed to all members. The accounts should show two columns of numbers for income and expenditure, namely (a) in the quarter and (b) cumulative so far, including the period of the pilot society.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the annual general meeting of the Project should be as soon as practicable after distribution of the quarterly accounts to 30 September each year.

Subscriptions

The paper entitled "Subscriptions and Costs" dated 5 November 2005 was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minimum subscription for membership of the Project should be £25 a year and that the minimum subscription for a sponsor be confirmed at £100 a year for 5 years.

Expenditure

It was decided that expenditure should be carefully controlled during the 2005-6 year, such that a surplus remains at 30 September 2006. In particular, there should be no expenditure on professional research during the year as research from members would be sufficient. It was recognised that professional researchers may be necessary in later years when it becomes clear which sources cannot appropriately be searched by members. Expenditure at the College of Arms should be limited, at this stage, to commissioning a schedule of all their references which have a bearing on the seventeenth century.

It was agreed that the Project's membership of the Guild of One-Name Studies should continue. An article on the Project's plans and work should be written for their publications with a view to attracting more members.

Register of Worthington References

The paper on "Production of the Register of Worthington References" dated 1 October 2005 was considered. Edition 1 (examples) of the "Register of Worthington References" dated 30 September 2005 was also considered. Both documents were approved in principle, except in respect of the following three suggestions.

Firstly, it was proposed that the three centuries covered by the register should be treated in separate volumes, each with its own index. In this way, each volume would settle at a finite size as the search for references approaches completion, without being upset should the Project decide to extend research to times before 1501 or after 1730. Also, the arrangement would allow for editorial and indexing responsibilities to be spread more widely amongst members should the volume of work be too great for one editor and one indexer.

Secondly, it was considered to be very important that the researcher responsible and the date of his or her work be given at the foot of each item. One reason is that transcription and interpretation of ancient documents are arts which would be treated differently by different researchers. When an item is later reconsidered and the entry in the Register modified, the researcher and new date should be added immediately below the previous researcher and date.

Thirdly, it was suggested that where dates are tabulated, as in baptisms, marriages and burials on Page 8 of Edition 1, the dates should be reversed to give the year first followed by month and day. In that way, the years would catch the reader's eye better and the presentation of dates would better conform with the item numbers.

It was proposed that the Register should be maintained in Microsoft Word and be sent to members periodically by e-mail. Each member could then transfer the Register to CD Rom or print out the whole or parts as he or she requires. A copy on paper should be retained in archives and be available to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED that research for and production of the Register of Worthington References of the 17th Century be commenced and that it constitute the main endeavour of the Project for the coming year.

References relating to the sixteenth century or the early decades of the eighteenth century may be taken by researchers and entered in the corresponding Register when researchers find it convenient or consider it important. However, there is no current obligation to pursue completeness outside the seventeenth century.

Roles of Members for 2005-6

Frank Brimelow, Stephen Read, Addison Worthington, Judy Worthington, Lloyd Worthington, Philip G Worthington, Robert Worthington, Stuart Worthington, William Worthington and William (Bill) C Worthington have offered to do research work during the coming year. Zones for their work were briefly discussed, but it soon became apparent that the only restraints in the early months should be to avoid duplication. It was recognised that as time advances it will become necessary to identify areas to be researched and to seek volunteers for the work.

It was agreed that the archivist should facilitate coordination of research by developing a schedule of potential sources, sources being searched and sources exhausted.

It was agreed that Stuart Worthington be editor of the 17th-Century Register. A volunteer is still sought for indexing that Register.

It was agreed that Lesley Munro continue to be treasurer.

It was noted that the post of secretary of the Project is still vacant and that a volunteer is sought.

Rules of the Project

IT WAS RESOLVED that the "Prospectus" dated August 2005 be accepted as giving the constitution and rules of the Project as varied or extended by the resolutions made in this inaugural meeting and by any further resolutions made from time to time by majority vote in general meeting.

Archives

As the Project archives will have increasingly valuable historical data, thought should be given to what should happen to the archives if the Project should cease or falter. It was agreed that long-term plans for the archives be raised again at the next general meeting.

Cheque Signatories

It was noted that there are 3 cheque signatories and that any 2 can sign a cheque. The signatories are currently Lesley Munro, Judy Worthington and Philip M Worthington. To avoid a married couple being two of the signatories, it was agreed that Stephen Read should become a signatory in place of Philip M Worthington.

Election of Chairman for 2005-6

Philip M Worthington's letter of 11 November 2005 to all members was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Janet Robyn Worthington be elected chairman of the Project from the close of this inaugural meeting until the close of the 2006 annual general meeting.

On behalf of those present, Lloyd Worthington thanked Philip M Worthington for his leadership of the pilot society and for his efforts in bringing the Project to its present situation.