



Minutes

Annual General Meeting, Allen Valleys Local History Group (AVLHG)

Date: 28 June 2022 Time: 7.30pm Location: Allendale Village Hall

Committee attendees: Gloria Ashman (GA), Mandy Charlton (MC), Dorothy Collier (DC), Carol Davison (CD), Valeria Dunn (AVD), Mick Hall (MH), Paul Mingard (PM)

Committee absentees: John Dobson (JDo)

Member attendees: Sheila Adams, Elizabeth Archer, Alison Atkinson, Craig Atkinson, Barbara Dawson, Ian Dunn, Jared Dunn (JD), Adrian Gifford, Ingrid Gifford, Brian Gardner, Mark Haffenden, Teresa Haines, Elizabeth McQuillan, Richard Skinner, Faye Tinnion, Stuart White, Malcolm Whitfield

1. Attendance and apologies

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies were received from Elizabeth Beardsley, John Dobson, Jane Hughes, Jennifer Norderhaug, Sharon Hunt, Gavin Hunt, Bill Richardson, Liz Barnes, John Barnes, Noelle Wright, Sue Cresswell and Chris Garner.• Dorothy Collier chaired this meeting.		

2. Chair's welcome

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DC (as Acting Chair) welcomed attendees to the AGM and thanked all members who have supported the Group throughout the past year.• The previous annual general meeting (AGM Oct 2021) had been poorly attended during the Covid period to the extent that a quorum had not been achieved; as a result no formal business was able to be carried out at that meeting.• DC thanked all those attending tonight.• Tellers MC and AVD recorded attendees as 24 members.		

3. Approval of prior meeting minutes

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes from the AGM (Oct 2021) had previously been circulated to all members via email.		

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the last AGM (Oct 2021) were approved as a true record by the membership without objection. 2022-3 Secretary was actioned to post these to the website. | JD | 31 Aug |
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4. Chair's report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair's report: DC presented her report. • The last annual general meeting was held on 13 October 2021 having been delayed from June due to lockdown regulations related to the Covid pandemic. • Member attendance at the Oct 2021 AGM was reduced due to Covid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ quorum requirements required two-thirds of the membership be present for any decision to be binding. With reduced attendees this threshold wasn't met. Accordingly, a new committee could not be voted in and thus the existing committee agreed to continue in their roles until such time as a new AGM could be scheduled. ○ the ongoing committee was Gloria Ashman (Minutes Secretary), Mandy Charlton (Treasurer, taking over from Sheila Adams), Dorothy Collier (Acting Chair), Carol Davison, John Dobson (Membership Secretary), Valeria Dunn (Acting Vice-Chair), Mick Hall (Secretary), and Paul Mingard. • Events: coming out of Covid hiatus, it was pleasing to be able to schedule five events in the six months between December 2021 and May 2022. DC thanked all those involved in the delivery of this program. • Historical heritage: the group has been involved in volunteering and renovating Allendale's Chapel of Rest with the local parish council; and continuing to work with Northumberland County Council (NCC) to establish a local history archive in Allendale library. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ archive boxes have been purchased; ○ our group has volunteered to 'run' the library on certain Saturdays. NCC supportive but the process of finalising this is ongoing. DC advised she has just received a positive email that we may finally be able to proceed and conclude in the coming months. • DC thanked the committee and in particular the outgoing committee members for their dedication as committee members since the formation of AVLHG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Dobson as Membership Secretary 		

- Paul Mingard as technical expert, and Paul has indicated he is willing to continue to provide support with the website going forward.
- DC also thanked MH and GA who are continuing as committee members but no longer as office holders.

5. Treasurer's report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MC presented the end-of-year balance at 31 March 2022 as £4090.55. This was subsequently updated to £4096.55. See <i>Appendix A</i>. ● MC advised that long-standing attempts to establish a bank account with Lloyd's Bank had recently been positively resolved which will assist with facilitating regular banking transactions. 		

6. Secretary's report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prior to the meeting, input from JDo and DC recorded total membership as 72 members ● A fuller secretary report had not been requested. 		

7. Event coordinator's report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AVD informed the meeting that a sub-committee had been established in 2021, and tasked with organising and delivering member events. ● AVD presented a summary of the resulting events that took place from Oct 2021- Jun 2022. Please see attached <i>Appendix B</i>. 		

8. Amendments to constitution

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Due</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A quorum having been achieved; voting proceeded – with results validated by MC and AVD - regarding various proposed amendments to the constitution. ● Amendments 3.2, 4.1, 4.2.1, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2 and 11 were passed. Option 1 to Amendment 4.2.3 was passed; Option 2 		

Appendix A: Treasurer's report

Balance Sheet AVLHG Year Ending 31st March 2022

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Talks and events	287.60	Talks & events	119.27
Photographic exhibition	1389.40	Photographic exhibition	1559.50
<i>Grants</i>		<i>Capital expenditure</i>	
N.C.C. Community Chest for archive storage	750.00	Archive storage cabinet	522.00
Allendale Parish Council for purchase of computer	500.00	Archive materials	311.29
Building Society interest	1.62	Website domain renewal	71.94
Membership fees	120.00	BALH membership subscription	150.00
Income from third-party events	53.00	Marketing, stationery & postage	78.96
	£ 3101.62		£ 2812.96

<u>Totals</u>	£
Income	3101.62
Less expenditure	2812.96
	288.66
Account balance to 31 st March 2021	3807.89
plus income v. expenditure to 31 st March 2022	288.66
Account balance at 31 st March 2022	£4096.55
Held in Building Society at 31 st March 2022	2948.18
plus Cash Float and Petty Cash at 31 st March 2022	1148.37
	£ 4096.55

Appendix B: Report on Events and Activities, October 2021 - June 2022

The period covered by this report runs from the date of our last AGM, in October of last year. That AGM was delayed because of restrictions imposed by the pandemic. As stated in the current constitution, the AVLHG AGM is scheduled for June of each year.

Malcolm Whitfield is a 'mine of information' when it comes to **Allendale New Year celebrations** having been directly involved since the 1960s. His first-hand experience, combined with the extensive research that he has carried out in recent years, contributed to the talks that he delivered in December 2021 and February 2022.

In two entertaining and informative presentations he explored the origins of the annual event, the laborious preparations which take place on each occasion and those characters, past and present, who continue to add to the success of the celebrations.

Deneholme is well-known to many as an impressive building at the Dene. It was built as a private house which then became a popular hotel run by the Simpson family and later an outdoor activity centre. Where better to host a talk about the building than in the place itself? Christopher Bacon, whose ancestor had Deneholme designed and built, presented a most interesting talk and slide show.

A group of AVLHG members and their friends were fortunate enough to visit **Whitfield Hall** on two sunny days in late May and early June. Sarah Blackett-Ord kindly hosted a conducted tour of the house and gardens. She was able to give a detailed insight into both the building and the history of the Blackett-Ord family.

Recognising the significance of the year in the long history of Hadrian's Wall, the AVLHG programme of events is naturally considering activities with a 'Roman flavour'.

Only last week, a group visited **Birdoswald Roman Fort**. The visit included an excavation tour where evidence of the civilian occupation outside the fort's walls is being uncovered. Unlike many sites along the wall, Birdoswald remains a 'work in progress' but each day reveals more about the Roman occupation and the life and work of those who lived there almost 2000 years ago.

The next scheduled event in the programme is a talk by Richard Young - '**How to Research the History of a House**'. Richard is an accomplished speaker who has presented to AVLHG in the past and so we look forward to an entertaining and informative evening.

Sincere thanks to all those who hosted the events that I have described and to those who supported them. We are very grateful to them all for providing such entertaining presentations on a range of historical topics.

Looking ahead; the committee aims to continue with a range of events and activities in 2022 focused on areas of interest to our members. Attendance has not rebounded after the 2020/21 lockdown hiatus and this is something that the new committee must address. We will want to connect with the membership on ideas of interest to you - early nominations so far are a guided tour of the historical **Allendale Town centre**, a **paleography workshop** and, leading on from the forthcoming house history talk, a presentation on **Ashleigh House**.