



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Conference Room, Bury St Edmunds Library
14 October 2025

Members present: Sarah Doig, Stephen Dart, Anne McGee, Sue Spiller, Diane Kirby, Patricia Mackie, Neil Langridge, Peter Lack, Rita Burr, Paul Simmons, Linda King, Tony Slater

In attendance: Judith Berry, Roger Curtis, Peter McGee, Kenneth Burr

1. Introduction and welcome

The Chair was taken by Sarah Doig, who welcomed everyone, particularly Paul Simmons, one of our Vice Presidents and former Chair of the Friends.

2. Apologies for absence

Betty Milburn, Margaret Statham, Chloe Veale, Paul Gurbett, Anthony Cobbold, Claire Barker, Helen Statham.

3. Minutes of the FOSA Annual General Meeting held on 3 October 2024

The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Chair's Report

Since the last AGM, FOSA has been successful in acquiring several documents for Suffolk Archives, details of which are provided in the attached report. Since this was written, FOSA has additionally been successful in acquiring two late fourteenth century documents covering the parish of Witnesham. A copy of the report is attached.

The Chair also reported that Betty Milburn had retired from the committee after many years' service.

5. Financial Report

Stephen Dart, Treasurer, presented the audited accounts for the year 2024. Total income was £3,462.82 and expenditure was £7,111.06. Subscriptions were down on the previous year but increased legacies and special donations, and a further tranche of gift aid tax reclaim, had increased FOSA's overall income. Monetary assets at the end of the year were £13,303.10. Approval of the financial report was proposed by Diane Kirby and seconded by Linda King. A copy of the report is attached.

6. Election of Officers

The following nominations had been received before the meeting:

Chair	Sarah Doig
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Stephen Dart
General & Minutes Secretary	Anne McGee

These were proposed *en bloc* by Sue Spiller seconded by Diane Kirby and agreed unanimously. Vacancies remain for the vacated positions of Vice Chair and Publicity Officer. The Chair informed the meeting that she intends to step down next year.

7. Election of the Committee

The following nominations had been received: Sue Spiller, Margaret Statham, Diane Kirby and Patricia Mackie. They were proposed *en bloc* by Paul Simmonds and seconded by Tony Slater.

The Chair thanked the officers and committee for their work and support during the year.

8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Stephen Cook had agreed to continue as Honorary Auditor. His appointment for the coming year was proposed by Stephen Dart and seconded by Sarah Doig.

9. Suffolk Archives' Report

This was presented at the meeting by Judith Berry. A copy is attached.

- Following a question on the benefit of the Hold's proximity to the University of Suffolk, Judith Berry explained the two-way value of bringing students from different disciplines into the archives to carry out research based on data of real life experiences: for example, in relation to language use in the St Audrys papers. Other students volunteer at the archives.
- Suffolk Archives' new website is on track to be completed in autumn 2025: the content has been updated, with the priority on searching and catalogue presentation.
- It was confirmed that the research service is no longer an income stream and time spent by staff on paid research had diminished.
- It was also confirmed that exhibitions were put forward by managers but that sponsorships were of limited value.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 5.36pm.