

# Helmdon Local History Group

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Reading Room, Helmdon.

Present : 60 residents and visitors

## **1. Welcome.**

Danny Moody welcomed everyone, in his capacities as Chair of the Parish Council, as the Helmdon webmaster, and most relevant, in his new capacity as the Chair of the Planning Group for the new Group.

## **2. Aims of the meeting**

Mr Moody explained that , following an open meeting held in May 2023, work had proceeded with a small planning group to establish a new Local History group .

The purposes of the meeting were

- to form a local history group which would build on the success of the recent exhibition about Helmdon's history
- which would also form a home for the records and the work done by the Local Studies group which used to function under the auspices of the now defunct Helmdon branch of the WEA
- and which would also form a home for the [helmdonhistory.com](http://helmdonhistory.com) website.

The intention was that the new group would start slowly, ie not with a full programme of activities immediately, but to build up slowly with perhaps 3 or 4 events per year initially.

Secondly there would be an AGM each October at which members could elect the officers and comments on the activities of the group.

For the purposes of establishing the new group, everyone present was given a vote since their presence indicated an interest in the work of the proposed new group.

## **3. Constitution.**

The meeting unanimously voted to adopt the Constitution of the Helmdon Local History group, as set out in a paper available to those attending, attached to these minutes.

## **4. Election of Officers**

The following were elected:

Chair Danny Moody

Secretary Hugh Walmsley

Treasurer Mike Barnes

Committee members : Ross Vicars, Audrey Forgham, Faye Holloway ( plus one vacancy ).

## **5. Finance**

It was noted that the new group ( ' HLHG' ), would take over any remaining balances held by the Helmdon Local Studies group.

It was agreed that HLHG should open a bank account in its name, with the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer as the nominated signatories.

## **6. Local resources**

It was agreed that HLHG should accept responsibility for the custodianship of Helmdon's history resources, such as those on the website, Aspects of Helmdon, etc .

### **7. Follow up**

Those present were invited to leave their contact details and to indicate if they would wish to be contacted about joining HLHG.

The new Committee would take the necessary steps to establish the group, its membership and its initial activities, including the first AGM to be held in October.

### **8. Other Business**

The chair introduced Chris Bazeley, who was to give a talk about 'Helmdon's Railways'.