

## Minutes of the 1252<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Manchester Pickwick Club held at the Moorside Social Club on 21st February, 2019

Although Mr. Pickwick was unable to attend due to a problem at work the chair was taken by Jingle who opened the meeting virtually on time; Ben Allen volunteered to act as P.O.C. and Tupman agreed to stand in for Dr Slammer who was also unable to attend.

Dodson produced a handwritten book about the club members which had been produced in June 1959 by Tom Flanagan, a former 'Joe the Fat Boy'. Whilst the book was being passed round the members, Dodson explained that Tom had lived for Pickwick and had included descriptions of some of the factual locations mentioned in Pickwick Papers. It was suggested that Tom's book was too important to be hidden away and fair copies should be produced which all members could access; a number of members said they would make enquiries about how this could be achieved.

There were no guests present but it was agreed that Tupman would perform his introduction as usual. On this occasion, instead of simply talking about the individual members, Tupman talked about the book and where the members appeared in it, a sort of bonus for all. Tom Flanagan's book would be beneficial in this area. It was agreed that at the next meeting, members would be expected to introduce their own Pickwickian name and character.

Tupman and Grummer then went on to say that most characters appeared in a number of locations throughout the book so comments about their characters could be varied to avoid repetition at subsequent meetings.

Grummer then announced that he had recently met two former Pickwickians, Anthony Humm and Tommy Bardell who had not been seen at a meeting for some 40 years! Mivins said he could recall Anthony Humm who had briefly attended shortly after Mivins had become a member but had only seen Tommy Bardell at the Christmas Dinner and Summer outing.

Grummer went on to say that, fortunately, Tom Flanagan's book wasn't with the regalia when the car containing the regalia was stolen in 1977.

Pickwick referred to the constant references in the minutes to Dodson being of dubious character and invited Dodson to comment on this. Before Dodson had a chance to comment, Stiggins said instead Pickwick should censure Dodson for refusing to accept that he was a 'bent' solicitor. Dodson didn't take the bait and instead told members of the time when he introduced Grummer to the club. He had told Grummer that his Pickwickian name was to be X and Grummer had carefully studied the character of X; but when the introduction actually took place he was introduced as Daniel Grummer, a constable from Ipswich, about which Grummer knew nothing! Some 40 years later he still hasn't forgiven Dodson for that.

Dodson then told members about a summer outing at Rudyard Lake where the raffle prizes were left on a table near an open window and were constantly being pinched by local youths; as a large percentage of the club at that time were serving police officers one wonders how safe we were in our beds when they were on patrol!

Mivins told a story about a summer outing to the Grants Arms in Ramsbottom where members had travelled by coach. On the return journey members were on the coach waiting, as usual, for the former Alfred Jingle to make an appearance. The coach was parked on a steep slope and unusual noises were coming from underneath. Mivins asked Grummer what the noises were, him being in the motor trade, and was told that it was nothing to worry about, just brake noises. The real worry began when the coach started to roll downhill until somebody was able to apply the brake firmly.

Ben Allen said that the entertainments group were intending another boat trip in August, probably the 9<sup>th</sup> and he would confirm the final date by email to all members. He added that the summer outing would probably be at 'Curleys' in Horwich at a date to be agreed and that the group were also arranging a whisky tasting trip, again at a date to be agreed.

The 9 o'clock toast was taken at 10.15 in good Pickwickian practise.

The vote of thanks to Pickwick and the vice chairman was presented by Dodson who said it hadn't been a bad night with a temporary Pickwick in the chair but he would have expected Pickwick to perform a lot better having served in that position on two previous occasions. The meeting had been carried by the members with reference to Pickwick only as an afterthought. He felt there was little he could say about the vice chairman who had occupied the vice's chair and done little else useful. Seconding the vote of thanks Winkle said he disagreed with Dodson and thought both Pickwick and the vice chairman had done a splendid job exceeded only by Mrs Pott's dumplings.

Once again 'Good neet owd friends' and the National Anthem were sung with gusto but little musical ability.

The Raffle raised £5.00 whilst the fines box contained £5.15.