

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON  
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015,  
from 5pm to 6.40pm

PRESENT

D Bagley	J Beckett	K Brand	B Cast	M Dorrington
T Foulds	R Gaunt	A Henstock	D Hoskins	P Jones
D Knight	A Langton	C Little	P Messenger	J Mills
H Nicholson	P Reddish	P Smith	M Trueman	J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from M Bennett, D Crook, H Fisher and A Nicholson.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were none not otherwise covered on the agenda.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015 - the Society would be represented once again at this fair. The following volunteered to staff the table and would be contacted by the Hon Sec to work up a timetable to cover the session - Philip Jones, Judith Mills and Barbara Cast. More help would be welcome.
- b) Geoffrey Bond award - following the Thoroton visit to Mr Bond's house in 2014, he had generously offered £1000 per year to support research into the history or archaeology of the county. This was for an initial five year period. The terms and conditions for this award would be worked up by Adrian Henstock, John Beckett, Barbara Cast, John Wilson and Richard Gaunt and subsequently agreed by the Standing Committee in order that the necessary publicity could be given in good time.
- c) Victoria County History Grant - a grant of £1000 had been made to Nottinghamshire Victoria County History by the County History Trust, and Thoroton had contributed £200. This was to cover expenses incurred undertaking further research at out of county research sources such as the National Archives by the NVCH team. Good progress was being made with the volume, despite the Archives being closed.
- d) Dr Rosalys Coope - it was agreed that Rosalys, our former President, should be made an honorary member.
- e) Local History and Archaeology Day School - this is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June at the

University of Nottingham museum. It had been pointed out that this date clashed with a university open day. However, Thoroton will take part again this year, with John Wilson taking the lead.

- f) Nottingham Castle - Heather Mayfield had been appointed acting chief executive of Nottingham Castle Trust. Trustees had also been appointed and the direction of the project was looking positive. A history of the castle was to be produced and academic input was required - Trevor Foulds, Richard Gaunt and David Strange-Walker were proposed for this, and there might be others involved.
- g) Friends of Nottingham's Parks - plans were in place to refurbish Highfields Park which had been neglected for many years.
- h) Civil War Centre, Newark - this was scheduled to open in May but appears to still be under development. Martyn Bennett to be asked to represent Thoroton.

## 5 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Proceedings of the last Publications Committee meeting - the circulated minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were noted. A number of Council members were in attendance.
- b) Transactions - in the absence of Martyn Bennett, it was reported that Transactions was at the printers, 4WORD Ltd.
- c) Record series - Adrian Henstock reported that the Newstead volume was now out and it was anticipated that the Senior map volume would follow this year. Lawrence Butler, who had transcribed the Nottinghamshire survey of churches by Sir Stephen Glynne, had died. The notes of his transcription had been found and, although the analysis of current churches had not been completed, the volume was now well underway. Mr Butler had been a local person with a PhD from Nottingham University and a Thoroton member. He had contributed to the Transactions in 1952. Adrian would write a note about him for the newsletter. As an update on the diaries of Joseph Woolley, a full transcript has been located which Sir Neil Cossons says that he can obtain. The intention would be to publish the diaries along with contributions from experts in this field.
- d) Newsletter - John Wilson and his fiancée, Janet Moore, had offered to take over the editorship. The deadline for the next issue under their editorship would be 1<sup>st</sup> June. This meant that papers for the AGM and excursion and special talk booking forms would go out in a separate mailing, with a deadline to David Bagley of 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Bibliography - Andy Nicholson was not present.

## 6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Report - a draft had been circulated and, with a minor amendment agreed, was approved for submission to the AGM.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 25<sup>th</sup> April at Thurgarton
  - i) Nominations for President, Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Adrian was nominated to continue as President. There would be no new nominations for

Vice-President this year. It was hoped that Dr Chris King would take over from Keith Challis as Archaeology Editor. Thanks was expressed to Keith, who had now moved away from working in archaeology. John Wilson would be nominated as Newsletter Editor. Of the four retiring Council members, John Beckett and Ceril Little had agreed to stand again. Peter Reddish and Andy Nicholson were retiring from Council and the Chair expressed the thanks of Council for their support during the periods they had served. Andy had indicated that, although not wishing to stand for re-election to Council, he would continue as Webmaster and keep the bibliography up to date. It was very much hoped that Peter would continue with his invaluable assistance at lectures. Rob James was nominated by Council to take one of the Council places.

ii) The Society's Public Relations role - there was considered to be a need for a member of Council to take on this role. It was hoped that a member of the new Council might take on this role.

- c) Luncheon 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - this was to be held at Basford Hall. The cost for the lunch was again to be £25.
- d) Correspondence - The Nottinghamshire Historian was passed around the table.

## 7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual accounts - the Hon Treasurer reported on the accounts. He said that the finances were in a healthy condition. He reported that the Newstead volume, pre member circulation, was already selling well and a good number of the Churm bequest books had been sold. There had been no legacies received this year. Subject to all being to the examiner's satisfaction, the accounts were approved for submission to the AGM.

## 8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Excursions - the programme for 2015 was in place and had been published in the Newsletter and the programme. Alan Langton said that the cost of coaches was increasing and the number attending excursions showing a slight decrease: he thought that there might be a loss this year. He was encouraging those going on excursions to find their own places to eat as the cost of meals at the venues tended to be high. Members considered that the excursion programme was important and that it should continue as before, with the changes suggested by Alan. The preparations for 2016 excursions were underway.
- b) Lectures - the 2015 programme had commenced and, subject to acceptance by all the invited speakers, the programme for 2016 was complete. Subjects for 2017 have yet to be determined.
- c) Special lecture - Jonathan Foyle at Kelham Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

## 9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership - Judith Mills informed Council of the difficulties in obtaining subscriptions from members who did not have standing orders and, when there were

standing orders, ensuring that members updated them. Banks also showed inefficiencies which further complicated the renewals. A list of new members and those who had resigned was circulated. Subject to it being in accordance with the constitution, it was to be considered that members who had not renewed by March 31<sup>st</sup> would be considered no longer a member and would not receive Transactions. It was suggested that better publicity for the Society would attract more members and this would be addressed. Judith and John Wilson would write an article for the Newsletter on the options for payment, setting out the benefits and difficulties associated with each option.

## 10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported that the main information was in the annual report. He was also able to report that a series of excavations, including training and community sessions, was planned for Nottingham Castle this summer. He was hopeful that this would be the first of several seasons. It was suggested in Council that a members' day would be very acceptable and David undertook to look into the possibilities. It was also hoped that HLF funding would be available for further work at Lenton Priory which had been so successful during tram works in 2014. The chancel of the priory would seem a good focus. The East Midlands Research Framework moves into its next phase in wiki-format, moderated to ensure accuracy. David would write something for the Newsletter.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand added to his section in the annual report by reporting the lack of news on the Nottingham Heritage Strategy, the future of the Guildhall and the Police and Fire buildings. He also said that attempts were being made to list the Horizon Factory, to find a future for the Cold War Bunker, the success of the refurbishment of the Malt Cross on St James' Street and the restoration of murals at St Martin's of Tours. Concern was expressed that the financial difficulties being experienced by New College Nottingham might threaten the future of the Adams Building.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril reported that the concerns of the Trust were focusing on long-standing problems. However, it was reported that HLF funding had been obtained for a feasibility study into how the future of the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark could be secured.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Richard reported that the bid for HLF funding for a county gravestone study had been rejected. The spring day-school would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March. There had been changes on the committee with Derek Walker and Margaret Woodhead retiring. Sarah Seaton was taking over the editing of the NLHA newsletter. Judith was replacing Richard as rapporteur for NLHA.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara reported that the appeal by Nottingham Trent University against the decision to refuse permission for two wind turbines at Brackenhurst overlooking Southwell had been dismissed.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2015/16 AND AGM in 2016

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> February; Spring Meeting and AGM 2016 - April 30<sup>th</sup>.