

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 2016,
from 5pm to 6.40pm

PRESENT

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from M Bennett and K Brand.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd October 2015, 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) Geoffrey Bond Research Award - two awards had been made in 2015, the first year of the award, the two recipients being a) the project to discover and record the role of Kelham in the Civil War and b) research into how print enabled people in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to access political information and ideas. Because of the quality and number of applicants in 2015, the Standing Committee proposed that a further £1000 from the Society's fund be added to the award, making £2000 available in 2016 which could be awarded to more than one applicant again, should the panel feel this was justified. Mr Bond was content with this extension to his award. Council agreed with this proposal.
- b) Microphone equipment for lectures - due to problems of interference from unregulated external sources, it was proposed to purchase a complete new set of amplification equipment for use at the Mechanics Institute. The cost would be £468 but the downside was that it was reliant on the Mechanics equipment. Standing Committee would consider the purchase again at its next meeting and make a proposition to the May meeting of Council. In the meantime, as it was near the end of the lecture programme for the spring season, it was decided to continue to borrow the Mechanics headset for the March meeting. Mr Hoskins warned that the price may well have to be re-negotiated due to this delay.
- c) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair 8th May 2016 - 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, Penelope Messenger, Margaret Trueman and Rob James. More help would be welcome.

- d) County Archives - Inspire, a community benefit and cultural organisation has been contracted by Nottinghamshire County Council to manage its libraries, archives and cultural services across the county. Its remit is to deliver the services for an initial five year period. After that period its future could be in jeopardy if it cannot self-fund. This is not a situation unique to Nottinghamshire: other archives units, including Lincolnshire, are under threat; many have been transferred to trusts.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Proceedings of the last Publications Committee meeting - the circulated minutes of the meeting on 27th November 2015 were noted. The next meeting would be on 25th November 2016.
- b) Transactions - Dr King reported on progress with the current edition. The copy was now at the printers, 4WORD Ltd. Items for this year's volume would be required by September: it was hoped that there would be a good number of archaeological reports for this edition as there was a substantial amount of archaeological work currently underway in the county.
- c) Record series - Adrian Henstock reported that Steph Mastoris had indicated that his work on the William Senior maps volume was completed and the final work of checking, editing, the assessment of the layout and the ordering of chapters was now with Adrian. It was planned that a CD with the maps would be included with the book. It was, however, considered that there should be some illustrations within the book. The Nottinghamshire survey of churches by Sir Stephen Glynne was almost complete. The Duke of Newcastle's Household Accounts was being currently worked on by Trevor Foulds. Some progress had been made on the diaries of Joseph Woolley, with hopefully a full transcript to be available.
- d) Newsletter - the latest edition was at the printers and would be posted out this coming week.
- e) Website - Andy Nicholson, although moved to Wales, was still the Webmaster and continued to update the website & bibliography, as well as sending out the e-Bulletin.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Report - a draft had been circulated and was approved for submission to the AGM.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 30th April at North Muskham
 - i) Nominations for President, Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Adrian Henstock was nominated to continue as President. There were no nominations for new Vice-Presidents this year. The Constitution of the Society requires that a third of Council members retire each year but are eligible for re-election: this results in five members being required to retire. It is usual for members to serve for terms of three years but, because of the irregularity of electing new

members to Council, only three were due to retire this year and, therefore, Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman had agreed to retire this year although they were not due to retire until 2017. The three retiring three-year term Council members, Philip Jones, David Crook and Trevor Foulds, had agreed to stand again.

- ii) The Society's Public Relations role - the Chair had drawn up a job description for this role and it was hoped that it would be filled this year.
- c) Luncheon 5th November 2016 - this was to be held on the Nottingham Princess once again. The cost of the lunch would be in the region of £18. It was hoped that David Hoskins would give a commentary as the boat travelled down the River Trent.
- d) Special Lecture 2017 - Carenza Lewis, archaeologist and broadcaster, had agreed to give this lecture which was likely to be in June or July 2017 and to be held in the State Chamber of the Archbishop's Palace in Southwell.
- e) Correspondence - The Nottinghamshire Historian was passed around the table.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual accounts - the Hon Treasurer reported on the accounts, a copy of which had been circulated. He said that this had been a good year with the Record Series selling well, especially the Newstead Abbey volume, which also benefited from the contribution from Dr Coope's family. Sales of all publications had increased. There had also been very satisfactory excursions returns. Although no grants had been received for the 2014 Transactions, there were likely to be three for 2015, amounting to about £2500. £500 raised through the Jonathan Foyle lecture was given to the Friends of Newstead Abbey at Jonathan's request. The opening balance in 2106 was £70,625. Subject to all being to the examiner's satisfaction, the accounts were approved for submission to the AGM. The Chair thanked John Wilson for his work on the Society's finances.

Vernon Radcliffe bequest - the Society was holding the sum of £500 from this bequest which had been reserved for an article on Newark; Chris King undertook to look into commissioning an appropriate item for the next volume of Transactions.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton reported that the 2016 programme was complete & that plans for 2017 were in hand & included a number of excursions outside the county.
- b) Lectures - the 2016 programme had commenced and that there was a good list of lectures for the programme for 2017.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills informed Council that she and John Wilson had reviewed the receipt of subscriptions and so far 50 people had not yet paid who usually paid by cheque; these will receive reminders and, if not paid by the end of March, will be deemed to have ceased their membership. There are also a number of standing orders which had not been updated. A list of three new members and those who had resigned was

circulated. It was noted that Sheila Stevens, a long standing member, was amongst those who had resigned.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported that the main information was in the annual report: it was hoped that reports on much of the work would appear in the Transactions. He was also able to report that a further programme of excavations would take place at Nottingham Castle this summer from 10th June for five weeks. The Nottingham project on the unpublished records of the former City archaeologist was continuing and the consolidated archives were available on the Archaeology Database. Funded by Historic England, key aspects of interest would be signposted, such as the unique corn drying kiln and the pottery kilns from Goosegate.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand's section in the annual report contained the main items. There was special concern about the area around the Guildhall buildings.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril's offer to continue representing the Society on NBPT was accepted with thanks.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones reported that the next day-school would be held on 19th March and was entitled "Unearthing the Past".
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara reported that a letter had been sent congratulating and offering support to the Dean of Southwell Minster on their acquisition of the adjoining archaeological site. A letter had also been sent to Bromley House to support their bid for grants.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported that there were now very few members of the group and, to hopefully reinvigorate the group, it was proposed to use the Thoroton Room at Bromley House for a meeting in the autumn. It was proposed to have a "Members' Research" section in the Newsletter.
- g) Nottingham Heritage Strategy - Richard Gaunt reported that the panel had not met since November but that site visits had been held to look at projects which could be undertaken by the City Council. A Heritage Officer was being recruited. There was likely to be a stronger planning line for the panel and a further representative may be needed for this.

11 OTHER MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- a) A painting of Newstead Abbey, probably painted in the mid-18th century by Robert Byron, had been located by Pete Smith at Norton Conyers. The sum of £5000 was requested by the owners and there would also be a further £3500 required for conservation. Support for funding bids would be given.
- b) The new Harley Gallery was to be opened by Lucy Worsley - Thoroton members of the focus group were to be invited.
- c) From 1st April there will be open access to published research. The Publications Committee to look at the implications of this.

12 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2016/17 AND AGM in 2016

May 27th, 21st October, 17th February 2017; Spring Meeting and AGM 2016 - April 29th 2017.