

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2020,
from 5pm to 6.30pm

PRESENT

P Baker J Beckett B Cast M Dorrington T Foulds R Gaunt A Henstock
D Hoskins R James C King A Langton S Lomax P Messenger
J Mills R Muge H Nicholson R Strong M Trueman J Wilson J Wright

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from David Knight.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were none not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Chris Robinson - it was with regret that the death of Chris Robinson, a member of the Publications Committee, was noted.
- b) Officer Roles arising from the retirement of the Honorary Secretary - Richard Gaunt, Vice-Chair, explained how the responsibilities of the Hon Sec would be addressed. It was proposed to set up a *General Purposes Committee* to undertake arrangements for the Spring Meeting and AGM, the Annual Lunch and Special Events. The role of the Vice-Chair would become more substantial, including heading up the GP Comm. It was hoped that a member of Council would join the GP Comm and possibly take on the role of Vice-Chair. Barbara Cast would continue her involvement in areas of Society business and would continue as Honorary Secretary, it being a constitutional requirement to have an Hon Sec. A new officer role was to be created, *Assistant Secretary Administration*, to be known as *Honorary Administration Secretary*. Rosemary Muge (in attendance) had agreed to be nominated for this role. The compilation of the Annual Report would be undertaken by Paul Baker. Subject to agreement by Council, these matters would be laid before members at the AGM. Council was in agreement.
- c) Nottinghamshire Archives development - consideration was given to a paper from the Chief Executive Officer, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries, which outlined proposals to develop the County Hall campus to include a "new state of the art home for the Nottinghamshire archive". It was noted that the Friends of the Archives had

received the consultation document. Members of the Friends present at the meeting considered that it demonstrated a commitment to archival matters. However, it might also demonstrate a political will to bring archives into county premises. The future of the current building on Castle Meadow Road was discussed, noting that it still had capacity for further storage. It was also noted that there were proposals to relocate services associated with Manuscripts and Special Collections and the University Museum store to the main University campus. It was agreed that there was a clear need for Thoroton to be involved in stakeholder meetings.

- d) Greater Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - this was to be held on 3rd May: Rob James, Penny Messenger, Margaret Trueman, Paul Baker and Ruth Strong would assist on the day.
- e) Local History and Archaeology Festival - to be held on 20th June and John Wilson, Paul Baker, Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman would assist on the day.
- f) Lowdham Book Fair - Ross Bradshaw would not be organising this but there would be a fair on 24th June in a different format.
- g) Laxton Farming Village - the agreement with the Thoresby Estate consortium had been signed and would come into force on 25th March, Lady Day.
- h) Painting of Newstead Abbey - sufficient funds had been raised to purchase the painting and it was currently being cleaned.

5 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Spring Meeting and AGM - 25th April at Colston Bassett Village Hall - arrangements were in hand.
 - i) Nominations for President, Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Adrian Henstock was again nominated for election as President and Keith Goodman, Sir Neil Cossons, David Bagley, John Beckett and Barbara Cast as Vice-Presidents. Nominations for officers remained as at present with the addition of Rosemary Muge as Honorary Administration Secretary. This year there were five Council members due to retire, Mark Dorrington, Richard Gaunt, Peter Smith, David Knight and Hannah Nicholson - all agreed to stand again. Ruth Imeson was also nominated.
 - ii) Nominations for Honorary Membership - John Beckett and Barbara Cast were nominated for Honorary Membership.
 - iii) Constitution Change - it was agreed that the AGM should be asked to approve changes to the constitution to clarify the new arrangements for Honorary Secretary and Assistant Secretary Administration.
 - iv) Annual Report - a draft had been circulated: subject to the addition of the accounts, this was approved for submission to the AGM. Thanks were given to all who had contributed to the report.
 - v) Other matters relating to the AGM and Spring Meeting - Martyn Bennett was to give the talk on Lucy Hutchinson. Arrangements to visit the church of St

John the Divine had been made and, subject to the weather, to the mediaeval church. The catering was being provided by Up the Stairs of Norwell.

- b) Luncheon 7th November 2020 - this was to be held at Welbeck Hall.
- c) Correspondence - there was none.

6 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual accounts - the Hon Treasurer circulated copies of the accounts and explained the contents. It was **agreed by Council** that the accounts be approved for submission to the AGM. John was thanked for his care of the Society's finances.

7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Proceedings of the last Publications Committee meeting - the minutes had been circulated and were noted.
- b) Transactions - Chris King reported that the printing of Transactions was on target. One hundred would be delivered to Rob James before the AGM.
- c) Record Series - Adrian Henstock reported that the volume on Glynne notes on Nottinghamshire churches was at the printers - an extra 50 would be printed for other sales. The launch would be held in St Lawrence at Norwell in the spring, appropriate in that the Glynne notes on that church were particularly lengthy. Also proposed to be produced this year was a reprint of Abigail Gawthern's diary.
- d) Newsletter - Paul Baker, Editor, was concerned that mistakes had appeared in the previous edition after the final proof read: this time there would be tighter control over the final version. This edition was due at the beginning of March.
- e) Website - In view of changes of responsibility Andy Nicholson would be creating a generic email address for general enquiries.
- f) Media - James Wright would be undertaking appropriate means of publicising the Society on social media with a view to raising the profile and attracting new members, especially younger ones. These were likely to be Twitter and Facebook. Council members would provide James with content such as information on research grants, publications and the register of events/anniversaries,

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton reported that the first two excursion flyers were going out with the Newsletter. Further excursions were already organised. Planning for excursions in 2021 was underway. However, Alan informed Council that this would be his final year of undertaking excursion planning. A shadow for him would be sought. Alan was thanked for his tenure of the role which had been undertaken since 2006.
- b) Lectures - David Hoskins reported that the 2020 programme had commenced successfully and that preparations for the 2021 programme was underway.
- c) Special Lecture Having found great difficulty in securing a lecturer for the Special Lecture, it had been decided to have a different kind of event. This year there would

be a concert by the Lincoln City Waites, playing on period instruments. They would also be talking about their instruments and the music they played.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Wilson reported that 9 new members had joined since the last Council meeting, most of them as Record series members. The majority of current members had paid their subscriptions. Very few had ceased their membership and the Society was gaining more members than were being lost.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Due to the Annual Report containing comprehensive reports, representatives were not required to present them at this meeting.

- a) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith Mills reported that the next NLHA day school on 28th March was being organised by James Wright on the theme of Religious Separatism and Radicalism. A further day school was being planned for later in the year in association with local history societies. The Chair of NLHA, John Parker, had resigned but would continue to manage the website and enquiries.
- b) City Archaeology - Scott Lomax reported on recent discoveries during excavations in November 2019 until January 2020 at the junction of Glasshouse Street and Lower Parliament Street when two mediaeval ditches and the remains of two mediaeval undercrofts were found. In the Middle Bailey of the Castle have been found the remains of mediaeval walls, possibly parts of the State Apartments built in 15th century; also further remains of the Great Chapel.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020/21 AND AGM in 2021

15th May and 16th October 2020, 12th February 2021: April 24th for the Spring meeting and AGM in 2021.