

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 23rd MAY 2014, from 5pm to 6.25pm

PRESENT

D Bagley J Beckett B Cast D Crook M Dorrington T Foulds R Gaunt
A Henstock D Hoskins P Jones A Langton H Nicholson J Wilson

1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

- a) Chair - Professor John Beckett.
- b) Vice-Chair - none appointed: should the Chair not be present, the Hon Sec would chair.
- c) Co-options - there were none - currently there were the full number of 15 elected members.
- d) Subject to his agreement, Peter Bloomfield to be appointed Independent Examiner.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ken Brand, Howard Fisher, David Knight, Ceril Little, Penny Messenger, Judith Mills, Andrew Nicholson, Peter Reddish and Margaret Trueman.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14th February 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- a) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- b) There were no matters arising from the Spring Meeting and AGM.

5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2014-15

- a) Standing Committee - this comprises officers of Council and any other as deemed necessary: appointed were John Beckett, Barbara Cast, David Bagley, Howard Fisher, David Hoskins, Alan Langton, Judith Mills and John Wilson
- b) Publications Committee - as agreed at the last meeting of the committee
- c) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara Cast, Ken Brand, David Crook, Howard Fisher, Peter Smith
- d) Archaeology Representative - David Knight
- e) City Planning Rapporteur - Ken Brand
- f) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Representative - Ceril Little
- g) Nottinghamshire Local History Association Representative - Richard Gaunt

6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Joint Thoroton Society and NLHS day-school - there were a fair number of contributions from across the county in preparation for the event at Ravenshead on 25th October.
- b) Archaeology Day - this was the first to be held in Nottinghamshire and was to be held on 21st June at the University - John Wilson, Penelope Messenger and Margaret Trueman are to be on the Thoroton stall but others would be very welcome.
- c) Michael Wood Awards - it was planned to use the funds raised from the special lecture for student awards relating to work associated with Laxton. John Beckett would be one of the judges.
- d) Churm bequest - Alan Langton spoke about Brian and Janet Churm who had both been ill for some time and had died recently - they had been long-standing members of the Society. Mr Churm had left his substantial collection of local history books to the Society with the intention that they be sold to raise funds. They were being offered to members in the first instance, with list and a price guide in the Newsletter, and then otherwise disposed of. Monies raised would be used for the upkeep of the Bibliography or similar projects.
- e) Southwell Church History Project - the bid for continuing funds will not now be made until August 2015.
- f) The Society's Public Relations Role - the Hon Sec explained that there was a gap in the Society's organisation in that there wasn't anyone dealing with publicity and news reporting about the Society. No-one volunteered to take on this task but it would be returned to with the hope that someone would take on this modest role.

7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - this was received in good time for the AGM and many members' copies had been picked up at the AGM and the rest despatched. Although Keith Challis had indicated that he wished to give up the archaeology editorship, he had said that he would continue for this year.
- b) Record series - the Newstead volume was in its final stages - it appeared that every picture of the Abbey there ever was would be included. A new foreword had been written by one of Rosalys Coope's architectural historian colleague. It would shortly be sent to the printer for a detailed quote for 300 copies. Dr Coope's family had offered to contribute to the cost of the volume: when the detailed estimate had been obtained they would be asked what they would wish to sponsor, a suggestion would be the illustrations. Nottingham City Council was to be asked whether they wished to contribute to the costs or purchase copies for their shops. The volume was to be launched at the December lecture. The Senior map volume - Stef Mastoris had remarked that it had taken him longer to edit the volume than it had taken William Senior to produce it originally. However the

index was being completed and the CD updated: it was hoped that it might be ready for the autumn. Dr Laurence Butler had been ill and this had caused a delay but he was now able to confirm that his manuscript notes for the Revd Sir Stephen Glynne volume had been found and were typed up and on computer. It was thought that the volume might be enhanced by architectural value input: Paul Stamper of English Heritage was in contact with Dr Butler.

- c) Newsletter - Howard Fisher reported, in his absence, that the newsletter was now completed and would be circulated soon. David Bagley confirmed that it was already being sent out.
- d) Bibliography - the Chair said that he would be meeting with Andy Nicholson and Adrian Henstock shortly to discuss the digitisation of the Transactions. It might be necessary to address the issue of copyright although it was thought that this was unlikely to be a problem: a public notice of intent might suffice.

8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - this had been held the previous Sunday and those who had represented Thoroton considered it again to have been a worthwhile event. However Council members were requested to consider offering to assist at Thoroton's stand in future for an hour or so. Thanks to those who were there, especially Philip Jones who was there throughout the day.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2015 - the venue for the next SM&AGM was yet to be decided. Barbara noted that there were a number of elements which needed to be assured - venue, parking, tea, speaker and church or other to visit. Lambley was the likely choice for 2015. It was suggested that Chris Weir would be an appropriate speaker.
- c) Correspondence - the Nottinghamshire Historian had been received.
- d) Lunch 2014 - this was to be held at the Forest Lodge Hotel in Edwinstowe on 1st November. An appropriate speaker was to be sought. David Crook was suggested. *(subsequently DC discovered he had another event at the same time.)*

9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson circulated a comprehensive account sheet which he took members through. Most of the subscriptions were now in. He produced a list of attendances at lectures which was most informative. The Michael Wood fund would appear in the restricted accounts.

10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

a) Lectures

- i. Programme update - Next year's programme was complete, excepting the speaker for the Notts History lecture. Consideration was being given to the programme for 2016.
- ii. Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October - Barbara Cast: November -

Hannah Nicholson: December - Adrian Henstock.

- b) Excursions programme update - the first excursion of the year had been very successful and the next was already being booked. The Burgage Manor visit was already booked up. Booking forms for the rest of the year were being sent out with the newsletter. Those who were disappointed not to be on the Welbeck Abbey visit would be given preference. Next year's excursions were in hand.
- c) Special lectures working party - the working party would be meeting soon to plan the 2015 special lecture. A number of possible speakers would be considered.

11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A list of new members was circulated in Judith Mills' absence. There were five new members, plus an associate and a student member.

12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight was not present but had sent a short update.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand had circulated a report but was not present.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - a short report was sent by Ceril Little
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Richard Gaunt reported that the association's website had been relaunched. It would be a useful resource for local history societies, and included a calendar of events.
- e) Response Group - representations had been made to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the proposal by Nottingham Trent University to erect two wind turbines at Brackenhurst which had twice been refused permission by Newark and Sherwood District Council. It was confirmed that representations would only be made on such matters as wind turbines, fracking, mineral extraction where particularly significant sites or buildings were endangered or compromised. This was considered to be the case in this instance.

13 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2014/15

24th October 2014 and 13th February 2015. Further dates would be emailed to Council once they had been fixed. In view of the poor attendance at this meeting, bank holiday periods would be avoided if at all possible.

14 OTHER MATTERS

Adrian Henstock reminded Council that 2023 would mark the 400th anniversary of Dr Robert Thoroton's birth. A possible way to mark this occasion would be to promote and contribute to the restoration of his memorial. Adrian would prepare a paper for the next meeting.