

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2015, from 5pm to 7pm**

**PRESENT**

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

**1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

- a) Chair - Professor John Beckett: on taking the Chair, Professor Beckett welcomed the new members of Council to the meeting - Chris King as Archaeology Editor, succeeding Keith Challis, and Rob James, elected member. Members were pleased to hear that David Bagley was recovering from his operation.
- b) Vice-Chair - none appointed: should the Chair not be present, the Hon Sec would chair.
- c) Co-options - currently there were 14 elected members but, at this stage, a further co-option was not made.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from David Bagley, Martyn Bennett, Ken Brand, David Crook, Mark Dorrington and Adrian Henstock.

**3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 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 2015-16**

- a) Standing Committee - this comprises officers of Council and any other as deemed necessary: officers are John Beckett, Barbara Cast, David Bagley, David Hoskins, Alan Langton, Judith Mills and John Wilson; the President, Adrian Henstock, is also a member.
- b) Publications Committee - as agreed at the last meeting of that committee.
- c) Thoroton Response Group - having lost Howard Fisher from the team, the group was now Barbara Cast, Ken Brand, David Crook, David Knight, Pete Smith - all areas of the Society's interests were now covered by the membership of the group.

- d) Archaeology Rapporteur - David Knight
- e) City Planning Rapporteur - Ken Brand
- f) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Representative - Ceril Little
- g) Nottinghamshire Local History Association Representative - Judith Mills

## 6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - several members of Council and friends had been in attendance at what had been a successful day. Special thanks were due to Philip Jones who set up the stand and stayed throughout.
- b) Geoffrey Bond Research Awards - terms and conditions were now on the website: one informal application had been received and would be considered by the Standing Committee.
- c) Local History and Archaeology Day - John Wilson, Penelope Messenger and Margaret Trueman are to be on the Thoroton stand but others would be very welcome. Chris King and David Knight would also be at the event, with David giving one of several archaeology talks during the day.
- d) Launch of the Nottingham Heritage Strategy - Richard Gaunt attended on behalf of the Society. David Knight also attended and was able to report that Trent and Peak Archaeology would be involved in the strategy. A considerable number of projects were in the prospectus which were to be rolled out with partners over the next fifteen or so years under the title "Stimulating and Celebrating the City's Heritage", the aim being heritage led regeneration. Amongst first stage projects were reconnecting the southern gateway to the city, establishing a Bulwell Town conservation area and creating an online database of the city's archaeology (HER and UAD). This was a very promising refocusing on the historic city, especially now it had political backing.
- e) Nottingham Castle - It was planned that the castle would become a world class attraction. Richard Gaunt had been appointed to oversee the creation of the HLF and Arts Council funded Rebellion Gallery - his title will be Curator of Rebellion and Social Justice and he will divide his time between this role and his University responsibilities for the next three years.
- f) Newstead Abbey - the buildings have been surveyed. The World Monument Fund has provided funding towards work on the West Front. John Wilson was to attend the Friends of Newstead Abbey meeting; he would report to Council and write an account for the newsletter.
- g) The Society's Press and Public Relations Role - there were still no volunteers to take on this role on behalf of the Society. John Beckett would draw up a specification for the role.
- h) National Civil War Centre - this had now opened in Newark and it was anticipated that members would wish to visit.

- i) Brian Loughbrough - the Chair announced with sadness that Brian Loughbrough had died. He had been the City's Arts Director and a member of Thoroton Council in former years.

## 7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - the 2014 edition was received in good time for the AGM. Chris King had not yet received any items or news of items for the next edition but it was evident that there was a great deal of archaeology being undertaken so there should be several to come. Martyn Bennett not being in attendance, there was no news of future history articles.
- b) Record series - Adrian Henstock, in his absence, informed Council that there was little to report at this stage but that he had nearly completed checking the text for the Glynne Church Notes volume. The Chair said that there had been no movement on the Welbeck volume - Steph Mastoris had resolved that it would be finished before a certain birthday in September. Professor Beckett had also spoken to Peter Hammond about pulling together the various transcriptions of the Joseph Woolley diaries and undertaking editorial input: there might be the need for some remuneration for this work. There is still a high demand for the Newstead Abbey volume with several outlets requiring substantial numbers and only forty left. It was agreed that a reprint was needed but the original printers' quote of £4k for 200 copies was considered high. John Wilson would speak to Adlards for a further quote. Depending on the outcome Russell Press might also be approached.
- c) Newsletter - John Wilson reported that the newsletter was in draft form and circulated a copy for Council to view and comment on. Due to John and Janet Wilson's wedding, this edition would be going out a month later than usual.
- d) Website - Andy Nicholson was continuing with the management of the website and bibliography. He was also responsible for sending out the e-Bulletin on receipt from Barbara Cast.

## 8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Luncheon - to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November at Basford Hall. John Beckett was to invite the speaker.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2016 - Barbara was to investigate Newstead Abbey as the venue for next year. It was likely that catering could be provided through the café and there would be no problem with parking. A speaker also should not be problematic and it would be hoped that the abbey itself could be visited.
- c) Correspondence - there had been none.
- d) Special lecture - arrangements were well in hand for this lecture at Kelham Hall by Jonathan Foyle, architectural historian and broadcaster. 72 tickets had already been sold. NLHA members would now be offered the opportunity to attend

and it would also be advertised locally in the Kelham area - Judith Mills to action these. Dr Foyle had been contacted and again confirmed his attendance. He asked that the amount which would have been his fee to go to Newstead Abbey - expenses would be paid to him.

## 9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson circulated a comprehensive account sheet which he took members through. The Laxton fund had now been paid to Laxton: it was hoped that the organisation would acknowledge Thoroton for its funding. The Churm books were still selling steadily.

## 10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

### a) Lectures

- i. Programme update - next year's programme was complete, excepting the speaker for the Notts History lecture: it might be that Hannah Nicholson's work would be completed in time to give this. It was hoped that there might be a lecture on King John included as he died in Newark in 1216. Consideration was being given to the programme for 2017.
- ii. Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October - Christopher King: November - Judith Mills: December - Penny Messenger.

b) Excursions programme update - this year's programme had commenced with a successful visit. Despite fears that bookings for excursions were decreasing, this year the bookings were very good. An extra for this year were visits being organised for members on August 12<sup>th</sup> to the excavations at Nottingham Castle being undertaken by York Archaeology (Trent and Peak). Next year's excursions were in hand and included a visit to Leicester's Richard III heritage centre and Bosworth Field.

## 11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A list of new members was circulated and also of resignations or non-responders. There were seven new members, plus an associate, since the last meeting of Council. This year the total of new members was thirteen. The Press and Public Relation role would include encouraging increased membership.

## 12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

a) Archaeology - David Knight reported on the considerable amount of archaeology currently being undertaken. He also reminded members of the interactive Research Framework, funded by HLF. David Strange-Walker had moved on from Trent and Peak but the cave project continued, including support from the City Council on a management plan. Charles Young's excavation reports are now partly online with further to come - this project is Heritage England backed.

- b) City Planning - Ken Brand in his absence had reported that York House had now been demolished and the site cleared; work at Talbot House had left it currently in a poor state; there was some public disquiet about the proposal to pedestrianise Station Street and Carrington Street; the Civic Society continued its monthly meetings with the Nottingham Conservation Officer.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril Little said that again the main topic was the Robin Hood Public House site in Newark. There had been three tenders to undertake the feasibility study. It was noted that it was the circa 17<sup>th</sup> cottages on the road frontage which were considered to be worthy of retention; however the condition of the remaining buildings was deteriorating and any demolition might jeopardise these areas of particular interest. NBPT considered that the organisation would benefit from some further professional input on its committee.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith Mills was now the Society's representative and reported on new projects, including a further day-school. The current committee of twelve and its Chair were keen to maximise the association's work. Grants for publication were available.
- e) Response Group - a further letter regarding Kirkby Hardwick Manor House had been sent to the County Council after a request from the Kirkby Hardwick Archaeological Group. The previous administration at the County Council had agreed to halt the sale of land but the current administration seemed intent on proceeding with the sale which would endanger the remnants, and future investigation, of this important site. Further representations would be made regarding the state of the Church Street Roman and Anglo-Saxon site in Southwell.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson said that the aims and remit of this group would be reviewed by him, together with John Beckett.

### 13 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2015/16

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### 14 OTHER MATTERS

A new Lakeside exhibition had just opened, curated by Richard Gaunt, entitled "Charging against Napoleon". The Byron Festival was to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> June and Philip Jones would make sure Thoroton had a presence.