

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016, from 5pm to 6.30pm**

**PRESENT**

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

**1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

- a) Chair - Professor John Beckett was nominated and, there being no further nominations, he was appointed Chair.
- 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, Ken Brand, Chris King, Ceril Little and John Wilson. The Chair reported that Ken was currently unwell and had indicated that he may step down from Council: David Bagley was also indisposed.

**3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 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 - Barbara Cast, Ken Brand, David Crook, David Knight and Pete Smith.
- 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 - Philip Jones
- h) Nottingham Heritage Strategy Representative - Richard Gaunt
- i) Research Group Convenor - John Wilson

## 6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Communications and Public Relations role/s - no progress had been made on recruiting someone for this increasingly important role: it could be undertaken by more than one person. The Standing Committee would consider its remit once again.
- b) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - several members of Council had been in attendance for all or some of this day, which was again considered successful. However, it was felt that the stand was somewhat static and didn't properly showcase what the Society encompassed. It was suggested that a visual display of activities would be helpful. The Standing Committee would look at the possibilities for future such events.
- c) Local History and Archaeology Day - again there would be a presence at this event and it was agreed that any visual promotion of Society activities would be helpful. David Knight would also be at the event, and would be giving archaeology talks during the day.
- d) Notts History Lecture - as INSPIRE (which is now managing the Archives and Library service) was not in a position to fund this lecture, it was proposed by the TSC that it should be continued but with the Society funding it at an increased fee of £100. This would be payable on receipt of an acceptable article for inclusion in the Transactions. This was agreed.
- e) Microphone equipment - it was agreed that new microphone equipment should be purchased for lecture programme use. TSC would also consider whether other equipment was adequate.

## 7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - the editors were not in attendance. The 2015 edition was received in good time for the AGM. Due to the number of illustrations, many in colour, and the number of pages, it was a more expensive volume this year, costing £5801. Two more grants were due for the publication of archaeology reports and one from Farndon Archaeology Group of £1k had been received.
- b) Record series - Adrian Henstock indicated that the Senior volume was still progressing and that Andy Nicholson was still assisting with images and advising on the device for the maps. It was felt that a DVD would be a more practical option for most members than a memory stick. The question of copyrighting or watermarking the maps was brought up. Andy was to be asked to advise on both these latter issues.

- c) Newsletter - John Wilson provided a report in his absence. The summer newsletter had been despatched; it had 28 pages this time to accommodate some urgent items. It was a standing item on the Standing Committee agenda.
- d) Website - Andy Nicholson was continuing with the management of the website and bibliography. He very speedily added items which were sent to him.

## 8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Luncheon - to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on the Nottingham Princess. It was hoped that David Hoskins would provide the commentary.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2017 - this was to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
- c) Special lecture - Carenza Lewis, the well-known archaeologist, was to be the speaker on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 in the State Chamber of the Archbishop's Palace at Southwell. Her topic was to be "Disaster Recovery, Archaeological Evidence for the Impact of the Black Death in England".
- d) Correspondence - a number of items had been received.
  - Photographs offered by Mrs Kitson, taken by her late husband, and sent to Picture the Past.
  - A review copy of Secret Nottingham - to be reviewed by Alan Langton.
  - Battle of Hatfield report - passed to David Crook.
  - Worcester Recorder - to East Midlands Collection.
  - Sherwood Archaeology report - to David Knight.

## 9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson's report together with the account sheet, circulated prior to the meeting, stated that subscriptions were slightly down. Sales of books were mainly of the Newstead volume. The Hon Sec explained that expenditure of £50 over income from the AGM was the result of a donation to North Muskham Church.

## 10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Lectures - David Hoskins had to leave early therefore his report was read.
  - i. Programme update - due to one of the autumn season's speakers having a pressing event which prevented him from speaking this year, the November lecture would be given by Adrian Henstock on Dr Robert Thoroton which had been scheduled for 2017. Rev Stuart Bell's talk would now form part of the 2017 lecture programme which was almost complete.
  - ii. Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October - Barbara Cast: November - Alan Langton: December - Adrian Henstock.
- b) Excursions programme update - the numbers for the first excursion, which had taken in a number of local places, had been low. However, there were already

good numbers for the next two and several for the Newstead Gardens visit. Details of the final excursion has been in the last mailing. David Knight offered further opportunities for members to visit the excavations at Nottingham Castle being undertaken by York Archaeology (Trent and Peak). 2107's excursions were in hand and included a visit to Pentrich in its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; visits to Tickencote and John Clare's cottage in Rutland; and Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire. Pete Smith offered to investigate a visit to Barlborough Hall and possibly the Old Hall.

#### 11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A list of new members was circulated and also of resignations or non-responders. This year so far (including some who joined towards the end of 2015) there were twelve new members, plus three associates, one combined with the Record Series and two student members. One Honorary Member and 24 ordinary members had been lost, including two combined with Record Series, plus three associate and three student members: eleven fewer members than at the end of 2015.

#### 12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported on the forthcoming excavations of the outer bailey of Nottingham Castle. A larger and deeper area is to be exposed. From 18<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August there will be a training excavation.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand in his absence reported that his main concerns at this time were the future of the Guildhall block, taxi access at Midland Station, the progress of the City Council's Greater Broadmarsh scheme and the problematic sale of 41 Pilcher Gate.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril Little was not in attendance.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones had nothing further to report.
- e) Response Group - further to concerns regarding the gate and railings at St Mary's in Nottingham, a letter had been received from the church architect relating to the church's attempts to resolve the issue with the City Council. It was noted that an important terracotta gravestone to a clay pipe maker had been removed from the graveyard, presumably for safekeeping.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported, in his absence, that this group was being relaunched at 10.30am on 15<sup>th</sup> October at Bromley House.
- g) Nottingham Heritage Strategy - Richard Gaunt reported on a recent Castle Project event and a subsequent meeting of the panel at which it was confirmed that the focus was now to be more on engagement and consultation with, for example, black minority and ethnic community groups and City local history

societies, and a decreasing emphasis on planning. Topics for the future included a Building Preservation Trust for the City, online access to HER, the Great War and the history of canals and waterways. The Heritage Lottery Fund representative had been at this panel meeting and had pointed out that the panel had a significant emphasis on planning and that there should be increased emphasis on such matters as local history and landscapes. However, the Royal Town Planning Institute award Excellence in Planning for the Built Heritage had been awarded to the Nottingham Heritage Strategy. Alice Ullathorne had been appointed as the Heritage Strategy Officer.

### 13 REMAINING DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2016/2017

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### 14 OTHER MATTERS

Philip Jones reported that an invitation to the Newstead Abbey Partnership Symposium on 11<sup>th</sup> July had been received. Philip agreed to represent the Society at this meeting and report back to Council.

Philip also reported that the Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust was being re-established with a launch at Thoresby Hall in the autumn. Philip agreed to be the Society representative.