

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 18th MAY 2018, from 5pm to 6.35pm

PRESENT

J Beckett	B Cast	D Crook	T Foulds	R Gaunt	A Henstock
D Hoskins	P Jones	C King	D Knight	A Langton	S Lomax
P Messenger	J Mills	H Nicholson	R Strong	M Trueman	J Wilson

Professor Beckett welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Council, especially those recently elected, Scott Lomax, Ruth Strong and James Wright.

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 the meeting.
- c) Co-options - currently there were 14 elected members out of a possible 15 but, at this stage, no further co-option was made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mark Dorrington, Rob James, Pete Smith and James Wright.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th February 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- a) There were none.
- b) There were no matters arising from the Spring Meeting and AGM. However it had again been a successful meeting and event.

5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2018-19

- a) Standing Committee - this comprises officers and any other Council member as deemed necessary: officers are John Beckett, Barbara Cast, David Hoskins, Rob James, 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, David Crook, David Knight and Pete

Smith.

- d) Thoroton Research Group Convenor - John Wilson
- e) Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative - Richard Gaunt
- f) Nottingham Civic Society Rapporteur - Richard Gaunt
- g) Archaeology Rapporteur - David Knight.
- h) City Planning Rapporteur - Hilary Brindley of Nottingham Civic Society provides reports.
- i) Nottinghamshire Local History Association Representative - Judith Mills
- j) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - no representative currently; Alan Wahlers provides reports.

6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Feedback on printing and mailing process - the system appeared to working successfully. However, the AGM papers had been delayed due to a problem with despatch.
- b) Social media/public relations - the Chair was to discuss this with Andy Nicholson, the Webmaster, regarding the volunteer to take our social media forward. Regarding public relations, it was hoped that a member of Council would take on this role but, in the meantime, the job description would be updated and circulated.
- c) 5th Nottinghamshire History and Archaeology Festival - 23rd June - this year those who were usually available for this event were unable to be there to staff a Thoroton stall. However, Scott Lomax would be in attendance on other business and David Knight and Chris King would organise a table adjacent to that of Trent and Peak. With their assistance information on the Thoroton Society would be made available.
- d) Lowdham Book Festival - 30th June - John Wilson would head a team to staff a bookstall and to ensure that the Thoroton Society was promoted. It was suggested that a bespoke tablecloth be sourced to use at such events and Penelope Messenger volunteered to look into this. Stef Mastoris was to give a talk on the Welbeck Atlas.

7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - there had been some slipups regarding the distribution but these were resolved satisfactorily. Chris King said that some articles were already being gathered for the next edition.
- b) Record series - due to the delay in arrangements for the launch of the Welbeck Atlas the Lowdham talk would be regarded as its launch. Flyers had now been distributed to all the other counties with surveys in the atlas. The President informed Council that the next volume in the Record Series should

be underway by the autumn. The White Book of Southwell had had a most interesting launch in the Chapter House of the Minster.

- c) Newsletter - this was currently at the printers.
- d) Website - Andy Nicholson was continuing to manage the website and bibliography very effectively.

8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Luncheon - to be held on 3rd November 2018 at Nottingham Council House in honour of its architect, T Cecil Howitt.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2019 - it was agreed that this would be held on 28th April even though it fell in Easter week. Planning was underway for it to be held at Dean Hole Hall, Caunton. The talk would be on Dean Hole, a noted plant and garden enthusiast whose bi-centenary fell in 2019. Philip Jones offered to give the talk.
- c) Special Lecture in 2019 - it was proving difficult to the proposed speaker. Richard Gaunt knew a colleague of hers and undertook to try to make contact.

9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson's report together with the account sheet was circulated. The Treasurer went through the receipts and payments and all was considered satisfactory.

10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Lectures - David Hoskins reported that preparations were underway for 2019, with 2020 on the horizon. There were two important centenaries that year, that of Lucy Hutchinson's birth and the Pilgrim Settlers, both occurring in 1620.
- b) Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October 13th John Beckett: November 10th Richard Gaunt: December 8th Judith Mills.
- c) Excursions programme update - the first excursion of the season had been very successful and details of the others were being circulated. There was a further opportunity for members to visit the excavations at Nottingham Castle on 10th August. 2019's excursions were in hand with Ceril Little and Pete Smith both organising one of them. There would also possibly be a tour of Sherwood Forest.

11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Members - A list of the six new members joining since the last Council meeting was circulated and also information on the 25 non-renewals.
- b) General Data Protection Regulation - The Society's policy had been drawn up and it was therefore compliant. The policy would be appearing on the website. There would also be an article in the newsletter and the Webmaster would circulate those

on the e-Bulletin list to ensure that they were still wishing to receive them.

12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

a) Archaeology - David Knight reported on work at the Castle where the emphasis would be on Brewhouse Yard rather than the Inner Bailey whilst the work was ongoing. However, building recording would take place. The Festival of Caves had been very successful and it was planned to be repeated next year. Work at a key archaeological site of interest south of Newark was underway: a speaker on this, Adam Tinsley, was suggested for the programme.

b) City Planning - Scott Lomax reported that archaeological work at Cowan Street was to take place prior to a decision being made on a planning application.

Hilary Brindley had sent in a report with information as follows:-

a. Broadmarsh carpark redevelopment - permission granted. The dramatic views of the Lace Market currently visible will disappear with the new carpark as it will be slightly larger than the old one, but more attractive and sympathetic to the surrounding streets.

b. Nottingham College (aka the Skills Hub) - permission granted. It will obstruct the open views of the Lace Market Cliff from Canal Street which are currently visible. However, there are benefits in that it will improve the area visually and in terms of community safety.

c. Inland Revenue office buildings, Castle Meadow Road - application to convert most of them into apartments but with no change to distinctive architecture will take place.

d. Glasshouse Street/Lower Parliament Street - application to convert former gas showroom and demolition of Parr's butchers, a building on the Local List, for student accommodation. The Civic Society had objected to the loss of the Glasshouse Street buildings.

e. Cowan Street - application for a seven storey building for student accommodation on the edge of Sneinton Market Conservation Area and likely to loom over the Salvation Army Citadel which is being considered for listing by Historic England. The Civic Society would be objecting to the height of this building.

f. Station Street redevelopment - an application is expected for redevelopment of vacant buildings which were identified by the Council as making a positive contribution to the Station Street Conservation Area so the applicant would have to show why they cannot be incorporated into the scheme.

c) Thoroton Response Group - the Chair updated Council on the proposals by Broxtowe Borough Council to dispose of Beeston Town Hall and the campaign to retain it. Beeston groups are working together to ensure the building has a viable future.

- d) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Alan Wahlers had sent in a report with information as follows:-
- a. The new Chair of NPBT was Cllr Peter Duncan of Newark and Sherwood DC and the new administrator was Sarah Stilliard.
 - b. The current planning application for the Robin Hood Hotel was withdrawn just before the public enquiry was due to take place. NBPT have been invited to attend a meeting with the applicants and N&SDC planning officers.
 - c. Talks have taken place regarding the establishment of a Nottingham Building Preservation Trust.
 - d. The "Thoroton Chest" has been given the Bromley House Library where it is placed in the Thoroton Room.
 - e. A pilot study of vernacular buildings is underway, revisiting the Vernacular Building Study of 1969/70. It was hoped to obtain funding to take this forward.
 - f. Projects are in hand involving the following buildings:-
 - i. The Breach, Eastwood - DH Lawrence connection
 - ii. Auld Cottage, Norwell - HLF application
 - iii. Bonington House, Arnold - building in poor state
- e) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith Mills reported that the day school in March, although successful, was somewhat marred by problems with the sound and projection systems: the committee has decided to purchase new equipment.
- f) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt reported that there had been a clash of meetings between the Heritage Partnership and the NLHA day school at Ravenshead which meant that some representatives were not able to attend. The Partnership is designed to support the work of the Heritage Panel. Whereas the Panel is made up of representatives of various bodies (including Thoroton), the idea is to establish a wider Heritage Partnership which would be able to feed projects back to the Panel for consideration. However, the Partnership has no constitution or funding at present. A Resilient Heritage Application is being advanced to try and provide the necessary resources to take this forward.
- g) Nottingham Civic Society - Richard Gaunt reported that Ken Brand had now retired from the Executive Board after decades of service, not least in editing a hundred newsletters. There are plans to produce an annual journal in place of the previous newsletter was to be produced; there was a new programme of heritage walks for the summer; grants continue to be given to local heritage-led projects; plaques had recently been unveiled on Albert Ball's house in The Park, and further plans for plaques to be placed on the George Hotel in commemoration of its Notts County Council links. Commendations had been

awarded to the former Registry Offices on Shakespeare Street and the Cabman's Shelter at Midlands Station.

- h) Thoroton Research Group - John Wilson reported that a small group continued to meet twice a year to talk about their ongoing research projects.

13 DATES OF REMAINING COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2018/2019

October 19th 2018 and 15th February 2019. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 27th April 2019.

14 OTHER MATTERS

There were none.