

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 23rd OCTOBER 2015, from 5pm to 6.30pm

PRESENT

D Bagley	J Beckett	M Bennett	K Brand	B Cast
D Crook	M Dorrington	T Foulds	R Gaunt	A Henstock
D Hoskins	R James	P Jones	C King	C Little
J Mills	H Nicholson	P Smith	M Trueman	J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Langton. (David Knight was unexpectedly prevented from attending and submitted his apologies after the meeting).

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Geoffrey Bond Research Award - there had been five applications. It was decided by the awarding panel to divide the amount available to two research projects; Hannah Nicholson's political information and education project and Matt Beresford and his team of community volunteers for the project to discover more about Kelham's role in the English Civil War. Each would receive £500.
- b) Publicity and PR strategy - Professor Beckett had undertaken to draw up a specification for this area of the society's work and asked for volunteers to contribute to this task, maybe with a view to taking on the role.
- c) Civil War Centre, Newark - this had been officially opened by Prince Edward in May. It was hoped that the society's representative, Martyn Bennett, would continue to be involved in its development.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - Martyn Bennett reported on preparations for the next volume would be smaller than the last. Volume 118 had been the last for which Keith Challis had been Archaeology Editor and he expressed his thanks and best wishes to him and welcomed Chris King to the Transactions team. A satisfactory number of articles had been received but the report arising from the 2012 History lecture had still not been received. Chris King said that the volume was light on archaeology reports but that the quality and interest of those received was good. MB said that the service received from 4Word was very good - copy was due to be sent to them in the first week of January.
- b) Record Series - Adrian Henstock reported that the Newstead Abbey volume had sold out. Due to the high price of reprinting by 4Word it had been reprinted very efficiently and economically by Russell Print - already 75 out of the 150 of the new edition had been sold. This had cost £1700 which was much less than the first printing, however they had not had to undertake the origination. Mr Henstock was of the opinion that this local printer should be considered in the future for the society's printing where appropriate. Steph Mastoris had undertaken to provide the Senior Welbeck maps volume early in 2016. Sir Stephen Glynne's church notes volume should be completed soon unless further information comes from the original editor's family. Peter Hammond had expressed an interest in pulling together the various transcription work already done on the Joseph Woolley diary: payment would be likely to be required for the completion of this volume.
Pete Smith reported that the Newstead volume had not been awarded the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain - it had gone to a volume on Bodley and the Gothic Revival.
- c) Newsletter - John Wilson had now been editor for two issues of the newsletter and generally he felt that they had been well received with the exception of a comment about the design of the cover, for which a new layout had been designed.
- d) Bibliography - the Chair reported that it was likely that Andy Nicholson was to move away from Nottingham but that he was intending to carry on with his work on Nottinghamshire and for the Society.
- e) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 27th November at the Newton Building of Nottingham Trent University.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Luncheon 2015 - 7th November at Basford Hall. 64 people were to attend. Professor Ted Cantle was to be the after lunch speaker.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held at North Muskham Community Centre on 30th April 2016. David Crook would be speaking on the last days of

King John.

- c) Special lecture 2017 - preparations were underway on the next special lecture. At this time Lucy Worsley had been invited and a response was awaited.
- d) Letters of support - a letter of support has been sent for a HLF bid for funding to recreate the 1609 Perambulation of Sherwood Forest. However, David Crook said that there had not been a perambulation in 1609 and undertook to look into this.
- e) Correspondence - a small number of items were circulated around the table including the Notts Historian and English Heritage's Heritage at Risk.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance - The accounts were circulated by John Wilson, the Treasurer. He was able to report that the income from sales of the Churm books was very satisfactory. An additional banner has been purchased for use at additional events and was being held by Philip Jones.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Lectures - David Hoskins circulated the draft programme for 2016 and said that the programme for 2017 was underway. 90 people had attended the last lecture held.
- b) Excursions - The numbers of people going on the excursions was very good this year.
- c) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures - January to March - The following Chairs for 2016 were agreed:- 9th January - Ken Brand: 13th February - Judith Mills: 12th March - Barbara Cast.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills circulated a paper around the table with details of membership showing numbers were more or less even with last year. Six members had already paid for their 2016 membership under provisions set out in the constitution for those joining after 30th June in any year.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight was not able to be present.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand reported that there was still concern about Talbot House, the Art Deco building which has been left undeveloped for a long time. New uses for the People's Hall on Heathcote Street were being sought. This had been the gift of George Gill and was originally for potters and had been the School of Art until 1855. The application to list Players Horizon Factory had been rejected. KB spoke of the Creative Quarter including the Lace Market and Sneinton Market and the award as a centre of excellence for small creative

businesses. Also that now the two tram networks were completed it was no longer "a nightmare but a dream". The refurbishing of the Southern Gateway was almost completed. Eco-housing on Green Street was being undertaken by Julian Marsh who was also involved with a housing development on the Trent Riverside.

- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril Little reported that what was left of the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark was considered of national importance and should be preserved - a development of small offices is recommended by the Trust and a cost of £1m which seems to be acceptable to HLF. CL was finding the journey to Southwell difficult and wished to cease representing the society on NBPT. A volunteer was needed to attend its quarterly meetings which were held on Wednesday afternoons.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - at present there was no representative but John Beckett had occasional conversations with John Parker, the NLHA Chair. Again a volunteer was needed to attend its meetings quarterly meetings on Tuesday afternoons at Ravenshead. Philip Jones will be attending the day school on 24th October.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara Cast reported that two cases have been addressed recently, both having been subject to representations before. These are the Ancient Manor of Kirkby Hardwick and the former Minster School site at Southwell. A report would be prepared for the newsletter.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported that there was currently poor attendance and its future would be considered by the Standing Committee.
- g) Nottingham Heritage Strategy - Richard Gaunt reported that the panel's role would be to hold the City Council to account and was made up of representatives of a number of city organisations, businesses and planning officers - the first half year's progress had been limited. A Heritage Officer was to be appointed but was not yet in place. A Nottingham Building Preservation Trust was to be established. RG is also the Curator of Rebellion and gave an update on plans going forward for the Castle project over a 5-8 years - there would be invitations and opportunities for presenting ideas and involvement in the project.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2016

12th February, 27th May and 21st October.

12 MEMBER UPDATE

The death of Paddy Huxley at the age of 92 was reported. Geoffrey Oldfield, former member of Council, was now 95 and in a residential home. The death of Rodney Cousins, aged 71, well-known local historian and museum curator, was also noted.