

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON  
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER  
2018, from 5pm to 6.55pm

PRESENT

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Martyn Bennett.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

6b - James Wright was willing to undertake work on social media for the Society and this would be followed up with Chris King.

6d - Penelope Messenger had made the tablecloth and it would be used at future events.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Membership Secretary - Judith Mills would be standing down from this role at the AGM after six years in what is quite a significant job, especially since the realignment of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary roles last year. She agreed to prepare a note on the role for the newsletter. Council members were asked to inform the Chair or Hon Sec of any possible candidates.
- b) Laxton, Historic Farming Village - the Crown Estate had put Laxton up for sale at £7m according to the sales brochure. It appeared that the new owner would be required to maintain the land and traditions as they now were. The Society would keep a close watch on the situation and make representations if necessary.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - Martyn Bennett, as History Editor, had sent a report on progress. He had received five history articles ranging from the mediaeval period to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Chris King confirmed that 4Word had provided a

schedule and copies were due for delivery on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Chris, as Archaeology Editor, informed Council that there were fewer archaeology reports this year: the usual informative round up of archaeological activities would be included: there would also be an article entitled "The Origins of Nottingham" the joint work of Jason Mordan, Gareth Davies and Scott Lomax. Due to there being fewer articles the printing costs were likely to be lower. There had been no article received on Wollaton Cottages or on any other Geoffrey Bond/Thoroton research award project. Judith would provide member numbers to the editors in January.

- b) Record Series - the Welbeck Atlas was still selling well with only about thirty copies left - there were a few damaged copies and some without flashcards. Welbeck Abbey had requested ten more copies. Pete Smith offered to contact Newcastle Local History Society to gauge interest from the northerly land areas Senior surveyed.
- c) Newsletter - John Wilson reported that the next newsletter was well in hand.
- d) Website - the Chair reported that Andy Nicholson was continuing to keep the website up to date.
- e) e-Bulletin - Andy continued to produce and circulate the e-Bulletin.
- f) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## 6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Geoffrey Bond/Thoroton Research Awards - these had been determined with awards being made to three applications; Bassetlaw Christian History Mayflower Pilgrims project, Tom Keyworth for investigations at Lodge Farm, Burton Joyce, and Jenny Sissons for research into Notts monasteries.
- b) Luncheon 2018 - this was to be held at the Council House in honour of its architect, T Cecil Howitt. Over one hundred people had booked to attend on this occasion.
- c) Luncheon 2019 - this was to be held at Kelham House on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.
- d) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Caunton Community Hall. It had been hoped that Philip Jones would be giving a talk on Dean Hole of Caunton, the bi-centenary of whose birth fell in 2019. However, it was necessary to find another speaker as Philip would not now be available.
- e) Special Lecture - it was proving very difficult to secure a lecturer for 2019 with a number of those invited not even responding. Attempts would continue to secure a speaker.

## 7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson circulated a paper giving details of the current finances of the Society which were, as usual, in a healthy state.

## 8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

### a) Excursions

- i) Current year's progress - Alan Langton reported that the excursion programme had again been successful this year and once again made a profit due to the necessity of setting an average price for coach travel which, depending on numbers, could result in a surplus. It had been surprising that the visit to Barton-on-Humber had attracted fewer numbers than the others. A visit to the Castle archaeological excavations had also been organised thanks to David Knight.
- ii) Future planning - The future programme was well in hand with 3 or 4 visits in 2019.

### b) Lectures

- i) Current year's progress - there were two lectures remaining of the 2018 series.
- ii) Future planning - the programme for 2019 was almost complete.
- iii) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures for January to March - the following Chairs for early 2019 were agreed:- 12<sup>th</sup> January - Chris King: 9<sup>th</sup> February - David Knight: 9<sup>th</sup> March - Alan Langton.

## 9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills reported that there had been ten new members of various categories joining since the last Council meeting. Reminders of the payment date of 2<sup>nd</sup> January would be sent out shortly: there was leeway to pay up to 28<sup>th</sup> February. About 50% of members paid through such means as standing orders and bank transfer.

## 10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight said that reports on much of the archaeological work had been in the Annual Report or would be in Transactions. There was a great deal of interesting work underway including at quarries along the Trent Valley, Langford quarry, Cromwell, Radcliffe on Trent and various sites in Nottingham. He commented that, with many of these sites being in river valleys, it was important that developers were aware of their archaeological richness for sites used by early peoples. The "Origins of Nottingham" project which involved digitising archaeological archives from the 1970s was being funded by Historic England with further funding due for consolidating and disseminating the archive. The work in hand on Woolpack Lane was being used as an experimental process of how to undertake such activities. Trent and Peak Archaeology had been contracted to undertake the work on the site of the visitor centre at the Castle. Whilst the Castle was closed opportunities to investigate other parts of the site were being taken. Scott Lomax also reported

on investigations at the Castle including the discovery of a possible medieval structure and a rock cut ditch which might be part of the original Norman castle. A late Anglo-Saxon grave cover had also been discovered which could indicate earlier activity below the castle.

- b) City Planning - Hilary Brindley had sent in a report which included information on decisions made by the City Council on student accommodation and office redevelopment at Station Street: the Civic Society regretted the loss of Victorian buildings in the approved scheme. Also regretted was student accommodation on the Plumb Centre site which was considered to be an intrusive large building with few redeeming features. A revised scheme for County House on High Pavement is likely to be agreed: the building is in such a poor state a speedy start on the work was considered necessary. The Island site was also subject to plans for a major redevelopment of mixed uses, including very tall hotels. The developer has indicated the intention of restoring the long derelict warehouses as part of a green pedestrian and cycle way through the site. However, it is noted that this part of the scheme should be given a timescale for completion. It is proposed to relocate the Central Library to the Collin Street and Broadmarsh area, along with a new public square.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Alan Wahlers had sent a report which included the appointment of a new administrator, up to date news regarding the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark, progress on the Vernacular Building Study and buildings of concern which were The Breach in Eastwood, Auld Cottage in Norwell and 34 High Street, Arnold. NBPT was also considering how to reduce annual costs.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith reported that she had been co-opted on to the committee and as a trustee. James Wright was also on the committee. The next day school was to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Derek Walker, a long-standing member and officer of the NLHA, had resigned from the committee.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara Cast reported that comments had been made regarding the relocation of the Central Library and representations on Beeston Town Hall. The latest news on the town hall was that it was likely to be sold to Cornerhouse Church.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported on a number of research projects being undertaken by members of the Research Group including on Newstead gardens, the west front of Newstead Abbey, cottages at Wollaton, the fate of Lord Lovell and street names in Cotgrave.
- g) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt reported that the Castle Strategy was now three years old and commented on progress made. One of the areas being developed is a Nottingham City Building Preservation Trust: it was suggested that Chris King might be Thoroton's representative on this.

h) Nottingham Civic Society - Richard reported that the Civic Society had discussed the Heritage Strategy and Panel having concerns that the strategy was not being recognised in planning matters such as in decisions respecting the height of new buildings. There were also concerns that the Panel was not operating effectively enough in supporting the Heritage Officer. A letter was being composed for the Chairman of the Panel which could be sent jointly with Thoroton. The Civic Society has supported a number of ongoing projects including the new Nottinghamshire war memorial (which was being conducted with cooperation between the City and County Councils). The Civic Society had been active in the commemoration of a number of anniversaries including the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nottingham Canalside explosion and the centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster. Richard had recently given the Keith Train Lecture.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2019

15<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> October. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April.