

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 18th OCTOBER
2019, from 5pm to 7.05pm**

PRESENT

P Baker	J Beckett	B Cast	D Crook	M Dorrington	
T Foulds	R Gaunt	A Henstock	D Hoskins	R James	C King
A Langton	S Lomax	J Mills	P Smith	R Strong	J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Martyn Bennett, David Knight, Penelope Messenger, Hannah Nicholson, Margaret Trueman and James Wright.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th May 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Laxton, Historic Farming Village - there had been no immediate progress: it was likely that, as part of the process, the details of the transfer were being scrutinised.
- b) Positions of Chair and Hon Secretary - the Hon Sec had given notice of her intention to retire from the position at the 2020 AGM after 28 years of noted contribution to the Society, 22 of those as Hon Secretary. Professor Beckett, Chair of Council, announced that he would not seek re-election to the chair, as was normal practice at the first meeting of Council following the AGM. He would inform members at the AGM of his intention. He would be retiring from the University in July 2020. He suggested that Richard Gaunt should be considered to replace him as Chair of Council. Initial attempts to recruit a new Hon Sec had so far been unsuccessful although someone who might undertake the administration of Council meetings had been identified. Standing Committee would consider how those matters currently dealt with by Barbara might be covered in the future.
- c) Painting of Newstead Abbey - Pete Smith reported that, of the £4,500 needed to secure the picture only £267.50 remained to be obtained. In principle Council agreed that the Society should meet that remainder in honour of Dr Rosalys Coope, subject to the Honorary Treasurer making sure that this met

with charitable status regulations.

- d) Recent events - the Chair thanked those who assisted at the Nottinghamshire History and Archaeology Fair and at the Lowdham Book Festival, both of which had been very successful.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - Chris King reported that the deadline for articles was approaching. At present there were three articles on the archaeology of Nottingham, two on past excavations and one on current matters by Scott Lomax. There was no report from Martyn Bennet on progress with history articles. However, the Chair was aware that there had been several articles submitted.
- b) Record Series - the Glynne volume was print ready except for photos at a printing quality - it was hoped that it would be published for 2020. There had been a problem with ascertaining permissions granted to the previous editor. The Abigail Gawthern volume, the indexing having been resolved, could now go ahead. Philip Jones was not able to continue his work on the Newstead Gardens at present due to ill-health. Newstead Abbey volume reprint - Rob James reported that the Newstead Abbey shop had requested all 100 copies at a unit cost which would not cover the cost of printing: a break-even cost would be £21. There had not been a response from Newstead Abbey on this issue. It was agreed that the Hon Treasurer and Rob take action on the best solution which would not create a deficit for the Society and would enable a number to be retained for sale to members or at events.
- c) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 22nd November.
- d) Newsletter - Paul Baker, the new editor, reported that the printer had caused some faults in the recent edition and that the next edition was in process. Paul was congratulated on a successful beginning to his editorship.
- e) Website - it was noted with appreciation that Andy Nicholson was continuing to keep the website in good order.
- f) e-Bulletin - Andy continued to produce and circulate the e-Bulletin.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Geoffrey Bond/Thoroton Research Awards - this year there had been six applications of which three had been awarded grants. These were to Scott Lomax on scientific investigations into horn cores found in Nottingham as part of a PhD; to Victoria Owen for documentary research into early residents of St Nicholas parish; and to Val Wood for research on the history of nursing in the county.
- b) Luncheon 2019 - this was to be held at Kelham House on 2nd November.
- c) Luncheon 2020 - the venue was yet to be finalised - a number of suggestions

were made.

- d) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held on 25th April 2020 at Colston Bassett Village Hall. The venue was chosen to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lucy Hutchinson who had lived in nearby Owthorpe: Martyn Bennett had been asked to talk on her life and achievements.
- e) Special Event - this would be held on 26th June 2020 in the State Chamber in Southwell and would consist of a concert and presentation by the Lincoln City Waites.

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. There had been a significant increase in the receipt of Gift Aid due to donations by a life member.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton had provided a very interesting list of excursions which had taken place since 2005. He reported on another successful programme this year. The programme was well in hand for 2020.
- b) Lectures - the first lecture of the season had just taken place and was very good even though there had been a change of speaker who had only been in post for three weeks - the question and answer session was particularly successful. The programme for 2020 was almost complete and a draft circulated.
- c) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures for January to March - the following Chairs for early 2020 were agreed:- 11th January - Alan Langton: 8th February - Richard Gaunt: 14th March - Barbara Cast.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Wilson reported that there had been seven new members of various categories joining since the last Council meeting, details of which were circulated. Currently there was a total of 574 members of all categories, including the 152 who also subscribed to the Record Series.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Thoroton Research Group - John Wilson reported on a number of research projects being undertaken by members of the Research Group including on early members of the Society and Bromley House, a longcase clock by Joseph Clark, Wollaton Hall and Park, piracy in 17th century, demolished boat-houses by the Trent.
- b) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara Cast reported on a request to respond on the condition of 33 Castle Gate which had planning permission for works but was, it was considered, to be deteriorating. The City Archaeologist was able to

provide information on what was being planned, including a building survey and archaeological watching brief. Scott updated the information by confirming that the building survey had been completed but had not be made available. Work on the remains of the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark was now underway.

- c) Archaeology - Scott Lomax reported on work continuing at the Castle including a number of short lengths of mediaeval walls and a well-built stone well or cess pit in the middle bailey. The previously known remains of a mediaeval fireplace in the former boiler house is now found to have an opening which led to an undercroft via a spiral staircase. An excavation on Canal Street has been completed revealing evidence of late mediaeval tanning and dying as well as contemporary walls. Nearby, further evidence of tanning has been found adjacent to the former course of the River Leen.
- d) City Planning - Scott reported on a decline in applications for large developments but many applications for changes of use, frequently for student accommodation. There were also a number of new student accommodation buildings planned, some of which involved demolition, another which would need provision to secure the vast cave system beneath. Good news was that a new park was proposed for Bramcote and that there was a successful appeal outcome for a proposal to build over the remains of Lenton Priory. A Supplementary Planning Document on Nottingham caves was to be adopted shortly.

Hilary Brindley of the Civic Society sent in a report which included information on the listing of Bartons Bus Garage, saving it from demolition, and that a new use for the Art Deco building was being sought; a modification to an application at 103/5 Derby Road; the refusal of permission to raise the height of 11-13 Thurland Street. The Civic Society has objected to a 9 storey residential building near to Nottingham Station, and to the demolition of a Victorian property on Glasshouse Street. She also noted pleasing appeal decisions - as above relating to Lenton Priory remains, a new build in the Park, applications for free-standing advertisement panels around the Old Market Square Conservation Area.

- e) Nottingham Civic Society - Richard reported that the Civic Society had unveiled five plaques recently, namely at the home of Stanley Middleton, on the Birkin building in the Lace Market, on The Playwright public house to commemorate the foundation of Nottingham Forest in 1865, at the Stockhill Eastate to mark its centenary and its importance in the provision of social housing and one to Eric Irons, the country's first black JP, on the Shire Hall. The joint Keith Train lecture was given by Elaine Harwood on Art Deco in the 20th Century.
- f) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt reported that work was progressing on the formation of a Heritage Partnership which would forward issues and ideas to the Panel for consideration; there was a campaign to promote it

throughout the city and various sessions would be held to raise awareness. All heritage organisations in the city were being mapped and the Society would be registered.

- g) Local list - Nottingham City Council had approved the principle of holding an adopted Local List and a Selection Panel of NCC officers, including Scott, and also the Civic Society representative Ian Wells, has assessed over a hundred entries on the CS local list against the adopted criteria to ensure recommendations to add entries on the adopted list are rigorous. NCC are preparing for consultation on the entries and will ensure that all can nominate additions to the list.
- h) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Alan Wahlers had sent a report which included that the Trust was pursuing a membership review, investigating the cataloguing of the Trust's archives, the Projects Committee had a number of projects relating to buildings under review including the listed 34 High Street, Arnold. He noted some progress on the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark and made an unclear comment on the Laxton Village survey. The Trust's AGM was to be held on 25th November. The Hon Treasurer asked whether the Society was a corporate member of the Trust.
- i) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith reported on the proposed teaching and resource package which it had been decided would not be appropriate for a joint venture. The next Angel Row forum would be held on 5th November. Day seminars are to be held on 28th March and 31st October 2020. John Parker, the Chair, had suggested a joint day-school in 2021 to celebrate the reopening of the Castle. It was agreed that the Society would co-sponsor this at the Castle in October 2021, subject to the works being complete. Judith said that the future of the Nottingham Enclosure walk was uncertain - it was suggested that the Civic Society would be a good 'owner' of this and Richard offered to raise the matter.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020

14th February, 22nd May and 16th October. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 25th April.