

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 21ST OCTOBER
2016, from 5pm to 6.25pm**

PRESENT

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from David Bagley, Ken Brand, Adrian Henstock, David Knight and Ceril Little.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27th May 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Philip Jones had attended the Newstead Abbey Partnership Symposium on 11th July 2016: there was nothing of note to report. PJ also reported that the launch of the Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust had been postponed.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Publicity and PR strategy - there was nothing further to report on this; no one had volunteered to undertake any part of this role, despite a revised specification broken down into discrete parts of the role having been publicised.
- b) Geoffrey Bond Research Award - there had been four applications and the selection of those to receive awards would be decided by the panel shortly.
- c) East Midlands History and Heritage: request for contribution to publication costs - it was recommended by the Standing Committee that a grant of £250 be made this year and that this be continued yearly as necessary. This was agreed.
- d) County Societies meeting - JB had attended and reported that there had a number of interesting ideas expressed. He had subsequently drawn up a paper which the Standing Committee would consider at its next meeting.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - Chris King informed Council that there was a good number of

archaeology reports, including on the archaeology of the tram and Kelham in the Civil War. There would also be an annual summary of key finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. There were no grants available for archaeology reports this year. Martyn Bennett was not in attendance to report on history submissions.

- b) Record Series - Adrian Henstock, in his absence, had sent a report on progress on the Senior maps volume and stated that it would be in print by the AGM in 2017. There was no news of other volumes in the pipeline.
- c) Newsletter - John Wilson reported that it was likely that this would be a smaller volume as not much copy had been received so far. The deadline was 1st November.
- d) Bibliography - the Chair reported that Andy Nicholson was continuing to keep the website and bibliography up to date.
- e) e-Bulletin - this was continuing to be drawn up by BC and sent out by Andy Nicholson on an irregular basis as news of events were received. BC and JB had met with John Parker to discuss joint working on a joint electronic newsletter.
- f) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 25th November - members would be informed of the venue in due course.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Luncheon 2016 - to be held on 5th November on the Princess Endeavour, River Trent.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held on 29th April 2017 at Kingston Village Hall, Kingston-upon-Soar.
- c) Special lecture 2017 - Carenza Lewis was to be the speaker and it would be held in the State Chamber of the Archbishop's Palace, Southwell, on 22nd June.
- d) 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. Due to the change in management of libraries and archives, the Nottinghamshire History Lecture would now be funded by the Society: £100 would be paid once a publishable article had been submitted by the lecturer. A significant sum had been received from the Publishing Licensing Society for copyright material published. Over £3k in grants had been received for the articles in the last Transactions.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - the excursion programme had been very successful this year. Two extra visits had been added to the programme - to Newstead Abbey Gardens and three to the Castle archaeological excavations. The programme for 2017

was almost complete.

- b) Lectures - David Hoskins circulated the draft programme for 2017, with the programme for 2018 underway. There was a change of lecture in November which needed to be widely publicised. Due to a commitment of the anticipated lecture, Adrian Henstock would now give his lecture on Dr Thoroton on November 12th, bringing it forward from 2017. There was also a change to the December lecture; Geraldine Gray was to give it as Carol Barstow had retired..
- c) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures - January to March - The following Chairs for 2017 were agreed:- 14th January - JB; 11th February - David Knight if he is available, otherwise BC; 11th March - Rob James.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills circulated a paper around the table with details of members joining since last Council meeting; these included two new institutional members and another rejoining. Letters would be sent out with the newsletter to request that members ensure standing orders are up to date, promote the e-Bulletin and Gift-Aid and check contact details are correct. It was hoped that this measure would help reduce the number of late payments. It was pointed out that there had been recent Gift-Aid regulations published; JM would check whether this affected the Society.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight had said that he would give a full report at the next meeting when he would be present.
- b) City Planning - as Ken Brand had indicated that he would not be standing for Council next year, consideration was given to obtaining news of city planning matters. It was suggested that Hilary Brindley might be able to help.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - as Ceril Little no longer found the journey to Southwell convenient, Alan Wahlers, a member of NBPT Committee and of Thoroton, had agreed to send a report on matters of interest.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones reported that a day-school was to be held the next day, the theme being food history and related topics. Nottinghamshire Historian had been reorganised and now had an increased number of shorter articles. Susan Griffiths was retiring from her involvement with the publication.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara Cast reported that representations had been made on the proposed demolition of the remaining parts of the Robin Hood Hotel at Newark and its replacement with a Travelodge.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported that there had been a useful meeting and a decision had been made to meet on a six-monthly basis with the next two

meetings being on 1st April and 30th September at 10.30 in the Boardroom of the Mechanics. Appropriate current research would be published in the newsletter from time to time. The aim is to inculcate a research culture within the Society and assistance might include; advice on how to write up research for the Transactions; links with other research groups such as VCH; researchers directed to the Heritage Gateway as an appropriate place for research to be made public. JB advised that proposals such as the provision of advice on writing for Transactions be taken to the Publications Committee

- g) Nottingham Heritage Strategy - Richard Gaunt reported that the strategy was now in its second year and a series of ambitions for the city's heritage was in place. A Nottingham Heritage Partnership Day was being held, mainly as a listening exercise, on 26th November and this might become an annual event. It was being proposed that a building preservation trust for the city be established. A bid was in place for Nottingham to benefit from a Historic England Heritage Action Zone which would include several conservation areas. The status of the Heritage Panel was being reviewed to ensure it had robust authority; a sub-committee, with Peter Ellis as the Chair, had been established to map out a constitution for the panel. Ideas were welcomed on what was important to secure and improve the city's heritage.
- h) Nottingham Civic Society - RG reported that the Civic Society was keeping a watch on the Nottingham Heritage Strategy's progress. NCS was proposing to redesign its website and was considering the future of publications; an electronic newsletter was being circulated. The aim of NCS would be to reach out to historic bodies in the city. It was noted that Chris Weir had joined the Board.
- i) Nottingham Castle Trust - RG reported that the representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund had been impressed by the plans for the castle and the result of the funding bid would be received later in the year.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017

24th February, 19th May and 20th October.