

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 19th MAY 2017, from 5pm to 6.25pm

PRESENT

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

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.
- c) Co-options - currently there were 12 elected members of a possible 15 but, at this stage, no further co-options were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mark Dorrington, Richard Gaunt, David Knight and John Wilson.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th February 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- a) David Crook informed the meeting that "The White Book of Southwell" would be published towards the end of 2017 or early in 2018.
- b) There were no matters arising from the Spring Meeting and AGM. However it had been another successful meeting and event.

5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2017-18

- a) Standing Committee - this comprises officers of Council and any other 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) Archaeology Rapporteur - David Knight.

- e) City Planning Rapporteur - at present Hilary Brindley of Nottingham Civic Society will provide reports.
- f) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Representative - no representative currently - Alan Wahlers to provide reports.
- g) Nottinghamshire Local History Association Representative - no representative currently - the Chair to discuss with John Parker of NLHA.
- h) Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative - Richard Gaunt
- i) Thoroton Research Group Convenor - John Wilson
- j) Nottingham Civic Society Rapporteur - Richard Gaunt

6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Feedback on new printing and mailing process - there had been no problems so far; the main difference members may notice that the newsletter arrived in a plastic wrapper rather than a manila envelope. One improvement was that a return address was included on the wrapper.
- b) Vacancy for Treasurer from April 2018 - there had been no volunteers at the AGM. the Hon Secretary suggested that a flyer be included with the August edition of the newsletter. Following that the position to be flagged up in an NHLA newsletter with the incentive of free membership of Thoroton for someone willing to take on the role. If no success is achieved from these and other attempts, including word of mouth, professional services would have to be sought.
- c) Public relations - discussion on a possible way forward on this area of work took place. It felt it might be something a student could undertake - Chris King was to speak to a possible person.
- d) Local History and Archaeology Day - again there would be a presence at this event including Margaret Truman and Penny Messenger and it was agreed that the presentation put together by David Hoskins would be used if it could be arranged. David Knight would also be at the event.
- e) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - those in attendance were thanked for promoting the Society on what had been a successful day. The presentation created by David Hoskins added greatly to the interest of the stand and it was agreed that it should be used at every opportunity.

7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - the editors were thanked for another excellent volume and also those who undertook the distribution at the AGM. Rob James commented that there were about 130 copies left after distribution: the Publications Committee would be asked to assess the number needed for the 2016 volume. Chris King said that he had already received a number of articles already and

some of them had associated funding.

- b) Record series - Adrian Henstock confirmed that the Welbeck Atlas volume was now at the printers and would be delivered the next week. The launch would be at Welbeck Abbey which Steph Mastoris was organising. Book sales would be handled by Rob James.
- c) Newsletter - this was currently at the printers.
- d) Website - Andy Nicholson was continuing to manage the website and bibliography very efficiently.

8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Luncheon - to be held on 4th November 2017 at the Olde Bell, Barnby Moor.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2018 - this was to be held on 28th April 2018. The venue may be Calverton. It was considered to be useful to have a member local to the venue to assist with the arrangements.
- c) Correspondence - there was none.

9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson's report together with the account sheet had been circulated prior to the meeting and all was considered satisfactory.

10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Lectures - David Hoskins reported that preparations were well underway for 2018. John Beckett was in discussions with Martyn Bennett on the Notts History Lecture.
- b) Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October - Barbara Cast: November - John Beckett: December - Pete Smith.
- c) Excursions programme update - the forthcoming excursion to Pentrich was fully booked. There were additional opportunities for members to visit the excavations at Nottingham Castle in August. 2018's excursions were in hand.

11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A list of new members was circulated and also information on the 13 official resignations and one who had not paid their subscription. Six members who would normally have been expected to retain their membership would be reminded. There were four new members and one re-joined member since the last Council meeting.

12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight was not in attendance but had indicated that his report in the Annual Report had contained most of the information of interest.

Discussion on the role of Scott Lomax, Acting City Archaeologist took place and further information of the future of the City archaeologist role would be sought.

- b) City Planning - Hilary Brindley had sent in a report with information as follows:-
- i. There was no further news on plans for Nottingham Central Library.
 - ii. On the Broadmarsh scheme, Intu are to press ahead with their limited refurbishment scheme granted at least a year ago, and instead of partly demolishing the Broadmarsh car park to re-configure the bus station to make it more outward-facing and user friendly, the entire car park is to be demolished and re-built with the new bus station fronting Canal Street. The highway plans to pedestrianise part of Collin Street and close Canal Street to through traffic will be going ahead.
 - iii. A controversial scheme to infill the gap in the Lace Market Cliff at Short Hill/High Pavement is still being negotiated. The Civic Society has objected to the height of the scheme which impinges upon views of St Mary's tower: it is hoped that there may be some slight improvements but this is not at all certain.
 - iv. The proposed Central College 'Skills Hub' on the site in Canal St (in front of the Lace Market Cliff) has yet to emerge as an application, although images which indicate it may be very tall and bulky have appeared in the press from time to time.
 - v. Heritage Action Zone status has been awarded to Nottingham which means some government money to help with conservation, including grant schemes to help some projects in the Old Market Square, Lace Market and Sneinton Market conservation areas. There will also be some funds for feasibility studies for some problematic listed buildings at risk.
 - vi. The City Council is looking for volunteers to help with two projects close to the Civic Society's heart - and quite possibly of interest to Thoroton Society members too. These are:- help with updating and bringing together collected sources of information on the Buildings of Local Interest which are to be made into a Local Interest List and given local plan policy status; and volunteers to take part in a survey of Grade II listed buildings at Risk which, following training, would be to record the results of the surveying.

A letter would be sent to the City Council congratulating them on the success on the above and enquiring how it was to be ensured that the projects would be supported by the Council.

- c) Thoroton Response Group - there had been no concerns raised.
- d) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Alan Wahlers had not sent in an official report but had indicated that the demolition of the remaining part of the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark was not yet certain as the application may be called in by the Secretary of State but not prior to the general election.
- e) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - as there was no representative on the NLHA committee there was no report. However, the regular newsletter updated Thoroton members of activities and its wide-ranging diary of events was welcomed and it was hoped that it would continue.
- f) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt was not in attendance.
- g) Thoroton Research Group - John Wilson was not in attendance.
- h) Nottingham Civic Society - Richard Gaunt was not in attendance.

13 REMAINING DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017/2018

October 20th 2017 and 16th February 2018. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 28th April 2018.

14 OTHER MATTERS

On June 1st the Thoroton Society would be 120 years old. John Beckett had written to Bygones regarding this.

There was to be a heritage and wildlife walk at St Ann's Allotments the following Sunday. "The St Ann's Allotments, Nottingham, is a very special and unique allotment site. It is the oldest and largest area of Victorian detached town gardens in the world and is listed Grade 2* by English Heritage. The site covers 75 acres and sits in the heart of the city." *from its website.*