

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2014, from 5pm to 6.50pm

PRESENT

D Bagley J Beckett K Brand B Cast D Crook H Fisher T Foulds
R Gaunt A Henstock D Hoskins P Jones D Knight A Langton C Little
P Miller J Mills P Reddish P Smith M Trueman J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from M Bennett, K Challis, P Messenger and A Nicholson.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

The Chair confirmed that Sir Andrew Buchanan, former Lord Lieutenant, had accepted our offer to become an honorary member.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Greater Nottinghamshire Local History Fair 11th May 2014 - the Society would be represented once again at this fair. Howard Fisher would put together a powerpoint presentation. The following volunteered to staff the table and would be contacted by the Hon Sec to work up a timetable to cover the session - Philip Jones, Howard Fisher, Margaret Trueman, Richard Gaunt, Alan Langton, John Beckett and Barbara Cast.
- b) Joint TS/NLHA day school - the Home Front - The date of this was 25th October 2014 at Ravenshead. The organisation of this event was being carried out by Thoroton and NLHA. Contributions to the day would be tried out with the Research Group.
- c) Use of Society banners - David Hoskins requested that good notice be given if Council members wished to use the banners at an event such as the GNLHF, in order that handover could be arranged.
- d) Archaeology Day School - this was to be held on 21st June at the University of Nottingham museum. John Wilson had carried out the negotiations with Clare Pickersgill and Thoroton and the Institute of Roman Studies were to be the two sponsors. This is the type of event which is held by both Derbyshire and Lincolnshire county societies, with the addition on this occasion of hands-on activities and presentations. Thoroton would take the banners and membership leaflets, etc.
- e) Resignation of Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham - it was agreed that the new

bishop, when he or she was appointed, would be invited to become a member and, on joining, would receive a copy of the current Transactions.

- f) Replacement on Council for Head of Manuscripts and Collections - Mark Dorrington had been invited to become a member of Council, as previously discussed at a Council meeting, and he had accepted.

5 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Proceedings of the last Publications Committee meeting - the circulated minutes of the meeting on 29th November 2013 were noted.
- b) Transactions - in the absence of Martyn Bennett, it was reported that there was a strong set of articles for the next volume of Transactions which was on schedule for distribution at the AGM.
- c) Record series - Adrian Henstock reported that there was no further update at present on the Senior map volume. Pete Smith had brought with him the draft of the Newstead Abbey volume prepared by him and Rosalys Coope, a larger than expected volume, taking rather longer to complete than anticipated. It was still awaiting the introduction. The draft was now handed to Adrian Henstock for his editing and it was expected that the final version would be ready in time for the December lecture. It was understood that Mr Butler had already completed the transcription of the Sir Stephen Glynne church survey, and Adrian Henstock was asked to investigate further since, even if Dr Butler was unable to complete the editing of the volume, it would be a great shame if his transcriptions were lost. The diary of Joseph Woolley had been used extensively by Caroline Steedman in *Everyday Life of the English Working Class* (CUP 2013) and it was agreed that a volume of the diary in the Record Series was probably no longer required.
- d) Newsletter - Howard Fisher reported that the next edition was at the printers and would be out the following week.
- e) Bibliography - Andy Nicholson, although not present, had said that information on the bibliography was as set out in the annual report. It was agreed that an honorarium of £250 be paid annually to Andy for ensuring that the bibliography was kept up to date. The Chair commented that in future PDFs of Transactions articles would be sent to Andy and they would eventually be added to the website.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Report - a draft had been circulated and, with some minor amendments, was approved for submission to the AGM. This year it had been reordered to place sections directly relating to Society matters before items with which the Society was associated. Adrian Henstock would try to find a photograph of Revd John Standish, the first Secretary of the Society, for the cover picture. Failing that a picture of Thomas Cranmer would be used.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 26th April at Aslockton
- i) Nominations for President, Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Adrian Henstock had agreed to be Council's nomination for President, it being noted

that our current President, Rosalys Coope, was to retire this year. There would be no nominations for Vice-President this year. The five retiring Council members, Ken Brand, Richard Gaunt, Penelope Messenger, Pete Smith and Margaret Trueman, had agreed to stand again. David Knight was also nominated for election to Council, this being required, in accordance with the constitution, following a co-option. Council also nominated Mark Dorrington, as noted above, and Hannah Nicholson. Pauline Miller was retiring from Council and the Chair expressed the thanks of Council for her support, plus smiling presence, during the period she had served. The Hon Secretary explained the system by which retirements were organised: variations in term of service were due to the requirement in the constitution that a third of elected members should retire each year. Retiring members were, however, eligible for re-election. Documentation for the AGM would be sent out at the end of March.

ii) The Society's Public Relations role - there was considered to be a need for a member of Council to take on this role. It would be considered at the post-AGM meeting in May.

- c) Southwell Church History Project - because the Heritage Lottery Funding was now at an end, means to fund the administration of the website for a further year was needed. It was proposed that the Thoroton Society, via its Research Section, make an application to the Marc Fitch Foundation for funding of £2500. This was agreed.
- d) Luncheon 1st November 2014 - this was to be held at the Forest Lodge Hotel at Edwinstowe. The hotel could accommodate no more than 82 people.
- e) Correspondence - a letter from Laxton History Group had been received, informing the Society of their success in securing HLF funding for a project entitled "A Snapshot in Time - Laxton in Peace and War". The Society had supported their application.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) Annual accounts - the Hon Treasurer reported on the accounts. This year reserves had been used for the digitation of Senior maps, the bibliography and the publication of the Drummond volume. A profit had been made on the Michael Wood special lecture and MW had indicated that any surplus should be given to the Laxton Project. The Chair, as their President, would be discussing this with the group and, in the meantime, the monies would be kept in a restricted fund. John Wilson explained that costs for audit and insurance were considerably lower than previous years. Subject to all being to the examiner's satisfaction, the accounts were approved for submission to the AGM.
- b) Subscriptions - the Hon Treasurer proposed that the subscriptions be increased to £25. This was agreed.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - the programme for 2014 was in place with two extra visits added, the first by invitation of Geoffrey Bond to Burgage Manor in Southwell on 8th June, the

second a further visit to the state apartments at Welbeck Abbey in September. Alan had been in contact with Ron Inglis of the City Council regarding its preparations to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Robert Smythson. The preparations for 2015 excursions were underway.

- b) Lectures - the 2014 programme had commenced and, subject to acceptance by all the invited speakers, the programme for 2015 was complete. Subjects for 2016 have yet to be determined.
- c) Special lectures - appointment of working party - following the success of the Michael Wood lecture last year it was proposed that further special lectures be held, possibly every other year. There were a number of people well-known in the history and archaeology world who might prove popular speakers. The core group from last year, David Hoskins, Barbara Cast and John Wilson, were willing to take this forward but a larger group was needed to share in the pre-planning and organisation on the day. Alan Langton volunteered - it was hoped that further members of Council would also be involved.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership - Judith Mills reported that a second reminder letter had been sent to non-payers this year, costing £25 plus stationery. A list of new members and those who had resigned was circulated. So far it had been a good year for new members.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported that the main information was in the annual report. There was a great deal of activity at present, much of it developer funded, with also significant community archaeology funded through the HLF. Trent and Peak Archaeology had undertaken a great deal of work. The Chair asked about the findings from the Southwell Workhouse project and whether they might be available for the next lecture, which was on the Workhouse. David agreed to see if that was possible.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand added to his section in the annual report by reporting on the uncertain future of Talbot House, an attractive art deco building, formerly the offices of Julien Cahn. Proposals for converting the Guildhall into an hotel had stalled. There was a proposal by Gedling Borough Council for a further bridge across the Trent. Eco-housing was being built in the Meadows and there were proposals for substantial housing around the Trent Basin. Ken also explained the project at the Castle for which lottery funding was being sought - it comprised three themes - one thousand years of history; rebellion and its role in the rise of democracy; the creative city. There was concern that visitor numbers to the Castle were dropping.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril reported that the restoration of the Thoroton dovecote was now completed. Buildings of concern in the city being discussed were the former Costume Museum, Severns Building and 31 Pilcher Gate. There was also ongoing consideration of the future of Newstead Abbey.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Richard reported on the forthcoming day school on 22nd March, the subject being the River Trent. At the recent of the

committee the autumn joint day school was discussed. The Notts Historian was due out. Investment was being put into the NLHA website and space was to be made available to other associated organisations which had no dedicated websites.

- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara reported on the response made on behalf of the Society to the consultation on the future of English Heritage. She thanked David Knight for his contribution to the response. The response was circulated around the table.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2014/15 AND AGM in 2015

- a) May 23rd and 24th October 2014, 13th February 2015
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2015 - April 25th