

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 2017,
from 5pm to 6.50pm

PRESENT

J Beckett	B Cast	D Crook	D Hoskins	R James
C King	D Knight	A Langton	C Little	P Messenger
J Mills	H Nicholson	P Smith	M Trueman	J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Dorrington, Trevor Foulds, Richard Gaunt, Adrian Henstock and Philip Jones.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st October 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

- a Publicity and PR strategy - no progress has been made on this, but David Hoskins had suggested re-advertising with a greater emphasis on the time commitment of the position.
- b Geoffrey Bond Research Awards 2016 - these had been made to MBarchaeology for the community archaeology project focused on Southwell and to Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society for its Wollaton Cottages survey project. Andrew Hamilton had been presented with his cheque at the Annual Luncheon on the Princess Endeavour.
- c East Midlands History and Heritage - following the decision taken at the previous meeting of Council, the Society is now a sponsor of this publication, and copies of the latest edition were passed round to members of Council. Copies also to be available at lectures and the Spring Meeting.
- d County Societies - the two main conclusions to be drawn from the meeting in September 2016 were that, if the Society wanted to attract younger members, firstly it has to be ensured that what is offered is attractive to them and, secondly more flexibility may be needed in financial transactions since many younger people no longer have cheque books and expect to use credit transfer when purchasing services.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Greater Nottinghamshire Local History Fair - Rob James had volunteered to mastermind this event. Other volunteers included Penny Messenger and Margaret

Trueman, Philip Jones, Alan Langton and John Beckett. David Hoskins was preparing a rolling powerpoint presentation.

- b) Retirement of the Treasurer - John Wilson had indicated that he wished to retire from the position of treasurer at the end of the current financial year (31 December 2017) with a three month hand over to a successor so that he would finally retire from overseeing the Society's finances as of the 2018 AGM. He would continue to edit the Newsletter and to convene the Research Group. Council thanked John for his service, agreed that his resignation proposals should be announced to the AGM and further agreed that the Society would now need to begin the search for a successor.
- c) Retirement of the Circulations Secretary - following a period of illness, David Bagley had found it necessary to resign after more than 20 years as Circulations Secretary. John Wilson had taken charge of the most recent mailing as an interim measure. The Standing Committee had held an emergency meeting to discuss the way forward. They recommended the following actions which were **agreed by Council**.
- That David Bagley be thanked for his many years of service to the Society and that he be nominated by Council as a Vice-President of the Society to serve from the April 2017 AGM.
 - That, on the recommendation of the Treasurer, and after discussions with Adlards (printers of the Newsletter), the next mailing be undertaken by Adlards using equipment designed for mass mailings. Although there would be a cost, this would be partly offset against a reduction in mailing costs through their use of a bulk post out. If the arrangement with Adlards was successful, it was proposed that they be invited to undertake the four Newsletter mailings of the calendar year 2017.
 - AGM papers - there was to be a single A5 booklet, now including the programme for the Spring Meeting and the agenda and minutes for the AGM. Two separate A5 fliers would be included in the mailing, one for members to return to the Hon Sec indicating their attendance or apologies and the other for members to return if they wished to nominate an officer or a member of Council for election.
 - Transactions - 4Word to be asked to continue their practice of mailing out overseas and non-local copies of Transactions and also sending a certain number for distribution at the Spring Meeting. The boxes to be delivered to Rob James, who has agreed to take over this part of David Bagley's work, and Rob to liaise with David over his lists prepared for the Spring Meeting.
 - Book Sales - as the Society was no longer selling books through the Archive Office the stock was to be moved to the top floor of the Mechanics and for Rob James to take over the sale and distribution of volumes. Arrangements to be made to alter the appropriate section of the website.
 - Book sales at lectures would continue to be run by Margaret Trueman, Penny Messenger and Philip Jones. Rob James would help with moving the stock from the top floor to the lecture hall.
- d) Succession planning for officers and Council members - the Hon Sec précised the

current situation for the Society with retirements from two key roles and other roles not yet filled. It was not possible for the Society to function effectively without a nucleus of members willing to undertake roles to ensure its healthy future and so she requested Council members to consider if they could identify members of the Society who might take on vacant or soon to be vacant officer positions, help as part of a team with some of the business of the Society or stand for Council in future years. This was favourably accepted by Council and members undertook to inform the Hon Sec of any candidates.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Proceedings of last Publications Committee meeting - Chris King outlined the business of the meeting. This year there were no grants attached to articles.
- b) Transactions - there was a good number of papers for this edition. The article on the Newark torc would be funded from the legacy of Vernon Radcliffe and the Hon Sec would inform Myra Radcliffe.
- c) Record Series - a meeting had been held with Steph Mastoris the previous week and it seemed likely that the Senior volume would be available at the Spring Meeting.
- d) Newsletter - to be posted out shortly; the first mailing undertaken by Adlards.
- e) Website - the changes in officers would be included in due course and there would be a PDF of the annual report booklet.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Report - a draft had been circulated and was approved for submission to the AGM, subject to the booklet including the programme for the spring meeting and papers for the AGM and fliers as set out at 4c above.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 29th April at Kingston on Soar Village Hall
 - i) Nominations for President, Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Adrian Henstock was again nominated for election as President and Keith Goodman, Rosalys Coope and Sir Neil Cossons as Vice-Presidents. Vice-President Robin Minnitt had informed the Hon Sec of his decision to step down. As set out at 4c above David Bagley would be requested to accept nomination for election as a Vice-President. Robert James was to be nominated as the Honorary Distribution and Sales Secretary to replace the Circulations Secretary role, the change of title due to a change in remit. The five retiring Council members, Mark Dorrington, Richard Gaunt, David Knight, Hannah Nicholson and Peter Smith, had agreed to stand again. In addition Ken Brand had also indicated that he would be retiring from Council as from the AGM. This resulted in there being three vacancies on Council (one vacancy carried forward, one retirement and one member being nominated as an officer).
 - ii) Details of the Spring Meeting - the Hon Sec had been assisted in the arrangements by Janice Avery. Ray State, a local historian would give a talk on

the village. The cost to members, mainly covering the cost of tea, would be £8.

- iii) The Society's Public Relations role - this was to be brought to the attention of members at the AGM.
- c) Luncheon 4th November 2017 - this was to be held at Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor, with a negotiated cost of £23 for a three course meal.
- d) Special Lecture 2017 - Carenza Lewis, archaeologist and broadcaster, to give her lecture on Friday 22nd June 2017 in the State Chamber of the Archbishop's Palace in Southwell. The title for this talk was to be "Disaster Recovery, Archaeological Evidence for the Impact of the Black Death in England". Details were being mailed to members shortly. Subsequently it would be offered to associated organisations.
- e) Correspondence - there was none.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual accounts - the Hon Treasurer circulated the accounts. The small funds had been combined as one account. The financial situation was still sound but the extra resources needed for professional mailing had yet to be assessed. It was, therefore, **agreed by Council** that subscriptions be raised for 2018 by £2 for ordinary members, £1 for students and record section members and £2 for institutions. Subject to all being to the independent examiner's satisfaction, the accounts were approved for submission to the AGM. The independent examiner was now Martin Shaw. The Chair thanked John Wilson for his excellent work on the Society's finances which he had now streamlined and made simpler for his successor in 2018. A replacement would now be sought with a job description drawn up by John Wilson placed in the newsletter and the vacancy announced at the AGM.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton reported that the first two excursion flyers were going out with the impending mailing. Planning for 2018 was underway.
- b) Lectures - David Hoskins reported that the 2017 programme had commenced and that there was a good selection of lectures in preparation for the 2018 programme.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills circulated a paper detailing new members. She informed the meeting that it was likely that ten members would be lost due to non-payment and there had been some official resignations. However, there were 7 new ordinary members for 2017, 1 ordinary and associate, 2 ordinary and record series, 1 ordinary, associate and record and 1 student. Judith confirmed that some new members did not have cheque books and that several members now paid by bank transfer.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported that comprehensive information was in the

annual report. Highlights this year were Nottingham South Iron Age & Roman site and Farndon Fields with a record 5 pottery kilns. There would be a further programme of excavation at Nottingham Castle this year from 17th July to 18th August and a visit for members towards the end of the session would be arranged between David and Alan. Another highlight for Nottingham was that a localised version of the Viking Exhibition, as originally created by the British Museum, would be at Lakeside from 24th November 2017 until 4th March 2018.

- b) City Planning - no report. The Hon Sec would contact Hilary Brindley for future reports.
- c) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara reported that the Robin Hood Hotel proposals would be considered by Newark & Sherwood DC's planning committee on 7th March. The other major area of concern was the sale of the Central Library site, there being no evidence of the need for high-quality office space. The major concern was the subsequent uncertain future location of the library. However, the facilities at the library did need to be increased and enhanced.
- d) Thoroton Research Group - John Wilson reported that two meetings were planned. Three articles in Transactions were by members of the Research Group which was very pleasing.
- e) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones sent a report with the dates of next committee meetings as he was standing down as representative. A new representative was now needed.
- f) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt sent a report indicating that the current situation was set out in the Annual Report. He had written the panel's constitution which was out for consideration. John Beckett had given the keynote speech at the recent Heritage Panel event.
- g) Nottingham Civic Society - no report.
- h) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - no report - the Chair noted the trust's project to digitise all the NBPT records, for which grant aid was being sought.

11 MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- David Crook informed the meeting that a transcript of "The White Book of Southwell", the original of which was in the Nottinghamshire Archives, will be published before the end of 2017, The launch would be in the Chapter House of Southwell Minster.
- Alan Langton reported on the meeting of the Gedling Heritage Forum, the main item of which were the plans for a museum of the History of Gedling at the new Gedling County Park.

12 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017/18 AND AGM in 2017

May 19th and 20th October 2017 and 16th February 2018; Spring Meeting and AGM April 29th 2017 and April 28th 2018.