

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019, from 5pm to 6.30pm**

**PRESENT**

P Baker	J Beckett	B Cast	D Crook	T Foulds	R Gaunt
A Henstock	D Hoskins	R James	C King	A Langton	S Lomax
P Messenger	J Mills	H Nicholson	M Trueman	J Wilson	

Professor Beckett welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Council, especially Paul Baker who had been recently elected.

**1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

- a) Chair - Professor John Beckett was nominated and, there being no further nominations, he was appointed Chair.
- b) Vice-Chair - Dr Richard Gaunt was nominated and, there being no further nominations, he was appointed Vice-Chair.
- c) It was noted that John Wilson had now taken on the office of Membership Secretary in addition to continuing as Honorary Treasurer.
- d) In view of the additional role of John Wilson he was retiring as Newsletter Editor. Paul Baker was nominated as the new Newsletter Editor and this was agreed.
- e) Co-options - there had been 15 elected members, that being the number allowed by the constitution. However, as Paul Baker was now an officer this was reduced to 14, but no co-option was made at present.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mark Dorrington, David Knight, Pete Smith and Ruth Strong.

**3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

- a) There were none.
- b) There were no matters arising from the Spring Meeting and AGM. However it had again been a successful meeting and event but with fewer members attending.

## 5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2019-20

- a) Standing Committee - this comprises officers and any other Council member as deemed necessary: officers are John Beckett, Richard Gaunt, Barbara Cast, Paul Baker, David Hoskins, Rob James, Alan Langton 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 as lead; David Crook, David Knight and Pete Smith as consultants as necessary.
- d) Thoroton Research Group Convenor - John Wilson
- e) Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative - Richard Gaunt
- f) Archaeology Rapporteurs - David Knight and Scott Lomax
- g) City Planning Rapporteurs - Scott Lomax plus comments from Hilary Brindley of Nottingham Civic Society
- h) Nottingham Civic Society Rapporteur - Richard Gaunt
- i) Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative - Richard Gaunt
- j) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - no representative currently; Alan Wahlers of NBPT provides reports.
- k) Nottinghamshire Local History Association Representative - Judith Mills

## 6 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair held on 12<sup>th</sup> May - the event was successful with assistance from a team led by Rob James. However, the numbers attending appeared to be less than previously. Although no Society publications were sold, a good number of other books were, amounting to £30. Rob explained that, due to donations of books from members, they were made available for purchase at events.
- b) Nottinghamshire History and Archaeology Festival - a good team had been assembled to assist and showcase the Society at this event to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- c) Lowdham Book Festival - 29<sup>th</sup> June - this would also be assisted by another good team who would staff a bookstall and ensure that the Thoroton Society was promoted.
- d) Newstead volume - despite numerous efforts by Rob James to accede to Newstead Abbey bookshop requests for more of this volume, no responses had been received and it had been reported that, again, there were none in the shop. Rob would continue to attempt to contact the curator. There were only about twenty copies left and another reprint might have to be considered.
- e) The Laxton Estate - John Beckett apprised Council of the current situation on the sale of the estate. Subject to showing "due diligence" it was likely to be acquired by a prominent landowner who was sympathetic to the importance of

Laxton as part of our national heritage and was the most likely to ensure that the village and its farming management system was appropriately maintained. John would continue his involvement by being a member of Laxton Manor Trust as advisor on heritage.

## 7 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - the distribution at the AGM had gone well. Chris King said that preparations for the next edition were underway. It was hoped that papers by the Geoffrey Bond/Society research award winners would be included.
- b) Record series - the Glynne papers had now been passed to John Beckett for final preparations before publication. A solution had been found to the Abigail Gawthern index update and would be accomplished shortly. A number of suggestions has been made for further volumes including more on parish records and one on the Newstead Gardens by Philip Jones.
- c) Newsletter - this was currently at the printers and would be distributed shortly.
- d) Website - Andy Nicholson was continuing to manage the website and bibliography very effectively a webmaster but he was not the progenitor of items and therefore it was more appropriate that Council members checked regularly for accuracy and that information and news were up to date.

## 8 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Luncheon - to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 at Kelham House. As Gladstone's birthdate in 1809 fell near the date of the lunch and his association with nearby Newark, Barbara suggested a short talk on him might be appropriate and Richard agreed to give this.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2020 - it was agreed that this would be held on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. As it would be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lucy Hutchinson's birth in 2020 an appropriate venue was to be sought if one were available.

## 9 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

John Wilson's report together with the account sheet was circulated. The Treasurer went through the receipts and payments and all was considered satisfactory. A bank mandate to enable payments by BACS was to be set up.

## 10 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORTS

- a) Lectures - David Hoskins reported that preparations were completed for 2020.
- b) Appointment of Chairs of lectures - October 12<sup>th</sup> David Knight: November 9<sup>th</sup> Martyn Bennett: December 14<sup>th</sup> Penelope Messenger.
- c) Excursions programme update - the first excursions of the season had good numbers booked. Details of the others were being circulated. Excursions in

2020 were in hand. Attendance at the Burgage Manor afternoon was at capacity. Any donations made by members to the charity Reach at that event would be made up to £150 by the Society if necessary.

## 11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members - There had been six new members joining since the last Council meeting.

## 12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Thoroton Research Group - John Wilson reported that a small group had met to talk about their ongoing research projects which included the history of Bromley House, the grave of a Nubian slave at Lyme Park, graffiti on lead roofs, tax measuring boats, Chatsworth servants and the blacksmith, Huntingdon Shaw.
- b) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara said that representations had been made at the request of members on the imposition of fees for examining items in City museum collections for research purposes and on plans to demolish the Majestic Cinema.
- c) Archaeology - Scott reported that there were nineteen areas of fieldwork in the city currently, including at the former Red Cow pub near Lenton Priory, the remains of the Leen Bridge at the base of the Cliff, at High Pavement and a continuation of work at the Castle, focused on the Great Chapel. All work would be written up.
- d) City Planning - Hilary Brindley had sent in a report with information as follows:-
  - a. Unity Square opposite Midland Station - permission for 12-storey government offices, plus permission for 7-storey offices building at Crocus place in the same area.
  - b. York House - permission for demolition for 6-11 storey student accommodation - but retaining caves underneath and the Rose of England pub.
  - c. Former Nag's Head - permission for student accommodation - the Civic Society had requested that signage and explanation of the significance of the pub be included on site. Again protection for the largest set of caves which are beneath this area were applied by planning conditions.
  - d. Permission granted to convert the former Congregational Church on Castle Gate into a restaurant or pub - negotiations had succeeded in some of the pews being retained and incorporated into the scheme.
  - e. Majestic Cinema on Woodborough Road - campaign underway to save this historic cinema, including a request by the Civic Society for listing.
  - f. Gala Bingo Club, St Ann's Well Road - demolition being objected to as it was considered a 20<sup>th</sup> century building of character, rare in that area.

Scott added that an application for 9 and 6 storey apartment blocks and for commercial uses had been received. Also that a meeting was to be held to discuss archaeology at York House.

- e) Nottingham Civic Society - Richard Gaunt reported that the AGM would be held the following week when Cal Warren would speak about the Castle works.
- f) Nottingham Heritage Panel - Richard Gaunt reported that there had not been any meetings lately. Representatives of the Civic Society and Thoroton were suggesting that they should have a bigger input to the panel and this was being considered. There was potential for the Society to have a representative on the new City Building Preservation Trust.
- g) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - a letter had been received from the Chair, including that the trust was seeking a project to undertake. Professor Beckett said that a full buildings survey of Laxton was needed, as had been planned by John Severn many years ago. (Alan Wahlers sent a report after the meeting informing Council that the Robin Hood Inn proposals were still continuing to be finalised and repeating that a project was being sought by the NBPT)
- h) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Judith Mills reported that she had not attended the most recent meeting but that the Association had been asked to assist in creating a research pack for local history societies.

### 13 OTHER MATTERS

The Chair reported that Pauline Miller, a former Council member and long-standing Society member, had died. Adrian had represented the Society at the funeral held at St Mary's, Nottingham, the church of which she had been a life-long member.

### 14 DATES OF REMAINING COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2019/2020

October 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Spring Meeting and AGM would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020.