

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 16th OCTOBER
2009, from 5pm to 6.45pm

PRESENT

J Beckett B Cast K Brand L Cram H Fisher T Foulds R Gaunt
J Hamilton A Hope D Hoskins D Johnston P Jones A Langton
P Messenger P Miller P Reddish P Smith M Trueman J Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D Bagley, D Crook and A Henstock.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th May 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Update - (i) Sue Clayton would give a progress report on the Local History Education and Research project to the Standing Committee. (ii) The Mechanics Heritage Day event had been fairly quiet but that at Bramcote was very successful. Those involved were thanked for their input, and especially Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman. (iii) Alan Langton and David Hoskins were taking over the Programme Secretary role from Leslie Cram from January 2010: Alan to be responsible for excursion arrangements and David for lectures. They would replace Leslie on the Standing Committee. Leslie was thanked for his tremendous input since he took over the role. (iv) Howard Fisher was congratulated for the increasingly attractive newsletter.
- b) Public Relations - in view of the increasing workload on officers, a dedicated public relations officer was sought. Ken Brand offered to take on this role and this was accepted with thanks. He would liaise with the Evening Post to seek to increase public knowledge of Nottinghamshire's county history society and generally raise its profile.
- c) Proposed Neville Hoskins Lecture - the family of Neville had suggested that there be a lecture named for him which they would sponsor. This was agreed with enthusiasm. It would be the Christmastime lecture, to start in 2010.
- d) Lecture fees - the SC's recommendation that lecture fees should rise to £50

for the five lectures sponsored by the Society was agreed.

- e) Other - (i) "Turning the pages in Ravenshead" by Philip Jones had just been published. (ii) The Local History Press was for sale. (iii) County Council funded work on the Victoria County History had commenced. (iv) The Chairman's secondment to the VCH continued: a meeting of county history societies was being convened to discuss common concerns and interests.

5 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Transactions - in hand, with a few changes to articles being completed before the Publications Committee met. So far there were five history and four archaeology articles. Keith Challis was unwell at present but it was hoped that he would return to health shortly.
- b) Record series - there appeared to be slow progress and it was hoped that Adrian Henstock would be able to give more positive news as soon as possible. There was a concern about Record Series members as it was two years in succession that there had been none. It was felt that this might compromise membership.
- c) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 4th December.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Luncheon 2009 - 7th November on the Princess Endeavour, River Trent. So far 69 people had booked, which was lower than usual.
- b) Luncheon 2010 - 6th November at Charnwood Hotel, Blyth. The Chairman would be inviting Sir Andrew and Lady Belinda Buchanan.
- c) Correspondence - a number of items were circulated around the table including the Worcestershire Recorder, Notts Historian and EH's Research News.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The subscriptions received were a little higher than last year. A substantial grant was received for an article in the Transactions on field walking. In view of the booking fee for the river boat, there might have to be a subsidy for the luncheon.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Progress report - the draft programme was circulated round the table. Leslie Cram asked for an alternative leader for 23rd May and Peter Smith agreed to lead this, subject to confirmation.
- b) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures - January to March - the following Chairs were agreed:- January - Barbara Cast; February - Ken Brand, subject to confirmation; March - Pauline Miller. Leslie was thanked for his work on what promised to be an excellent programme.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Membership - there were eight new members, including two student members. These were agreed. The V&A had resigned its membership due to the financial situation.
- b) Membership campaign - John Hamilton stated that it was worthwhile putting in a showing at history fairs and that it would be useful if other Council members could assist in this. Such events were a good opportunity for public relations. Peter Reddish would put a copy of the programme in the Archives, which he would seek from David Bagley.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - Keith Challis was not present.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand reported on plans by the City Council to convert the former hospital on Castle Gate to a neutral zone youth club. The City Council was planning to move many of its functions to Station Street which would leave the Guildhall and offices in Exchange Buildings empty. This needed vigilance. Ken was to meet with the newly appointed City planning director, who was on a six month contract. The Urban Design Guide had been launched: it states that there will be no tall buildings on Maid Marion Way.
- c) County and CBA Planning - Howard Fisher circulated a paper - eleven applications were reported on.
- d) East Midlands CBA - Ann Hope reported on recent activities. There was to be a session on members' research in Lowdham Village Hall in March 2010. Ann was asked to provide forward information which could be included in the Newsletter.
- e) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - nothing to report.
- f) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones reported on the forthcoming day school, Castles in Nottinghamshire, to be held at Ravenshead. Twenty new members had been recruited through the Notts Historian. The Association was thinking of providing awards for schoolchildren.
- g) Response Group - representations had been made following EH's campaign on Conservation Areas at Risk and the Clipstone Mine plans. Comments on the draft Planning Policy Statement 15 on the Historic Environment would be submitted.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Exhibition at the University of Nottingham "Commemorating Mr Gladstone".
- b) The new English Heritage East Midlands officer, Dale Dishen, is likely to deal with Nottingham matters.
- c) There would be an increase in the price of lecture tea to 85pence.

12 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND AGM IN 2010

a) February 12th, 28th May and 15th October 2010

b) AGM - 24th April 2010 - Bingham