

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 21ST OCTOBER
2011, from 5pm to 6.30pm

PRESENT

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

Martyn Bennett, the new history editor of the Transactions, was welcomed to his first meeting and Trevor Foulds was welcomed back after his recent illness.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from K Challis and A Henstock.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27th May 2011, 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) The President - It was noted that Dr Rosalys Coope, the President of the Society, would shortly reach her ninetieth birthday. The event would be marked at the forthcoming lunch and by an article in the Transactions. It was agreed that, if Dr Coope was in agreement, a volume bringing together her research on Newstead Abbey be produced. Her family was willing to part sponsor this volume and it was considered possible that the Society of Antiquarians, of which Dr Coope had long been a member, might wish to contribute. Pete Smith was very willing to assist Dr Coope in any revisions to her previous work on Newstead Abbey.
- b) Research Group - the research group convened by John Wilson continued to meet. A volume on the Great War was being considered to mark the centenary.
- c) National Archives - the visits to Kew were having to be reconsidered in view of the lower than anticipated take-up. However that arranged for 22nd November was going ahead.
- d) Nottingham Castle - John Beckett continued to attend the Castle Working

Group but the likely outcome was not yet clear.

5 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Transactions - Martyn Bennett reported that five articles had been received so far and the latest Newstead article was awaited. It was proposed that guidance for writers be put on the website. Consideration to including reader reviews was also to be given.
- b) Record series - Howard Fisher reported that he had completed the transcription of Archbishop Drummond's visitation and that the analysis was underway: it was hoped that it would be ready for publication early in 2012. There was nothing to report on the Senior maps at this time. Other volumes in preparation were on the Duke of Newcastle's accounts to be compiled by Trevor Foulds and a new edition of Abigail Gawthern's diary by Adrian Henstock with OCR support from Andy Nicholson.
- c) Newsletter - Howard Fisher reported that there was considerable copy for the next edition.
- d) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 2nd December at 5pm at Nottingham Trent University.
- e) Online bibliography of Nottinghamshire History - copies of the project plan had been circulated. Dorothy Johnston said that she had been concerned at the slow progress being made on the bibliography project by her staff and explained that this was largely due to staff shortages which were likely to be worsened shortly. It was agreed that the original bibliography was difficult to navigate but it was considered that it would not be at all easy to improve the basic structure. However, an online version would be a great improvement and it would make it easier to locate items. Council approved the project for taking forward and it was agreed that a meeting be held of the key parties to the project to further plan its development. The possibility of voluntary input to the project was mooted. John Wilson would direct the financing which would be met from the Davies bequest.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Luncheon 2011 - 5th November at The Hemsley, University of Nottingham. The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham had accepted the invitation to attend and would talk on the King James's Bible: one of the copies belonging to Beeston Church was to be displayed at the lunch. There were less people attending than usual and this was put down to the higher than usual cost. Woodborough Hall had been the chosen venue for 2012 but this was being reconsidered as this too would be more expensive. Other venues would be sought before a final decision was made.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held at Oxton. A coach would not be

provided but the system for providing any necessary lifts as used for the luncheon would be adopted instead.

- c) Correspondence - a number of items were circulated around the table including the Notts Historian.
- d) Database of members - it was agreed that a searchable database of members would be useful, for example, for identifying where experts in locations subject to queries might be found. Should commercial researchers request information they should be asked to contribute to the Society and/or to acknowledge the source of the information received.
- e) The Constitution - this was to be updated and would be on the agenda for the next meeting and subsequently to the AGM.
- f) National Planning Policy Framework - the Hon Secretary was congratulated on the response sent on behalf of the Society on this controversial Government planning paper.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- a) Finance - the accounts were circulated by the Treasurer who reported that the current financial situation was satisfactory.
- b) Membership - new members were approved.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton reported on the programme for 2012. Charges for excursions may have to be raised due to the increased costs of coaches and venues.
- b) Lectures - David Hoskins reported on the programme for 2012.
- c) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures - January to March - Chairs of the day would be provided with information on lecture dedicatees. The following Chairs were agreed:- January - Barbara Cast; February - Ken Brand; March - David Crook (to be confirmed).

9 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - Keith Challis was not present.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand reported on a number of matters: especially of note was the amended plans for the expansion of Broad Marsh which encompassed a reopening of the road link between Carrington Street and Listergate. There were also proposals for increasing Victoria Centre which had many flaws such as not relating to recognised public routes or to its surroundings. Ken Brand also noted that the southern side of the City was becoming increasingly the hub with work at the Midland Station underway and the relocation of Council offices to Station Street. There was concern re City Council properties including the Council House and the Guildhall.

- c) County and CBA Planning - Howard Fisher reported that there were very few plans coming through. He reminded Council that he wished to relinquish this role.
- d) East Midlands CBA - Ann Hope reported on a programme of themed days taking place. She agreed that information should be made available to members.
- e) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - work was underway on the Thoroton dovecote. The AGM was to take place shortly.
- f) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip Jones reported that the next day school was to take place on March 31st. He also mentioned the launch of the "Our Nottingham" website.
- g) Response Group - representations had been made on the Roman site at Southwell and the National Planning Policy Framework. Consideration to representations on Newstead Abbey, wind turbines at Brackenhurst, the Council House and Costume Museum would be given.

10 DATES OF FIRST COUNCIL MEETING AND AGM IN 2012

- a) 10th February 2012
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 28th April 2012 - Oxtun