

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON
GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 18th OCTOBER
2013, from 5pm to 6.35pm

PRESENT

D Bagley	J Beckett	M Bennett	K Brand	B Cast
D Crook	T Foulds	A Henstock	D Hoskins	P Jones
D Knight	C Little	P Messenger	P Miller	J Mills
A Nicholson	P Reddish	M Trueman	J Wilson	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Keith Challis, Howard Fisher, Richard Gaunt and Alan Langton.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th May 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Members were informed as follows:-

- a) there had been some confusion regarding the date of this meeting as the minutes had stated 25th October. This was explained that, as most of Council had remembered, the date had been changed subsequently by email message.
- b) the replacement for Dorothy Johnston as Keeper of Manuscripts was to be Mark Dorrington and he would be invited to take up a position on Council as had commonly been held by the holder of that post.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) President of the Society - Dr Rosalys Coope was intending to announce at the Annual Luncheon that she would be stepping down as President. Council would consider the future of the Presidency at the February meeting.
- b) Special lecture with Michael Wood - this had been a great success with very good attendance and a financial surplus over costs. No fee had been required by Michael Wood, rather he requested that a contribution be given to Laxton to support projects in the parish. The SC was proposing that another special lecture be held in two years' time, with a larger team to plan and manage the event and probably a different venue. DH, BC, JW and Ann Hoskins were thanked for their work in organising this event and ensuring a successful evening.

- c) Newstead Abbey - a meeting had been held in August which a number of Council and other Society members had attended. This was under the auspices of the World Monument Fund and chaired by Jonathan Foyle. During that meeting a small steering group to look at the future of the abbey and its support had been formed, of which John Wilson was Secretary. One meeting had been held and a further one would be held on November 4th.
- d) Lecture Times - from January lectures were to commence at 2.30pm and the bookstall would be available from 2pm. This would be announced at the remaining lectures in 2014, a note would go in the Newsletter and in the eBulletin.
- e) Sir Andrew Buchanan - still no response had been received regarding the honorary membership. The Chair would write a conventional letter in case Sir Andrew's email was not functioning.

5 PUBLICATIONS REPORT

- a) Transactions - Martyn Bennett reported that he had five articles already or nearing completion. David Crook informed the editor that he also had a substantial item which he would be forwarding. MB said that copy would probably go to the printers in January.
- b) Record Series - Adrian Henstock reported that the Senior Welbeck maps volume was nearing completion. Unfortunately Lawrence Butler had been unwell and unable to complete the Notts volume on Sir Stephen Glynne's church notes. A completion date for Dr Coope's Newstead Abbey volume was not available as Pete Smith was not in attendance to give a progress report.
- c) Newsletter - The deadline for items was 1st November. Nothing further was to be done at present about different ways of distribution.
- d) Bibliography - this had been launched on 19th September at Bromley House with Andy Nicholson giving a live demonstration. It was considered to be a valuable initiative and congratulations and thanks was given to AN. It was hoped that he would continue to update the bibliography and suitable remuneration for this task was being considered. The view was expressed that the bibliography's availability should be widely publicised, for example in the local press and also in the Notts Historian. The digitisation of the Transactions would be considered in the future if funding could be secured.
- e) Date of next Publications Committee meeting - to be held on 29th November at 5pm at Nottingham Trent University.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Luncheon 2013 - 2nd November at Kelham Hall. 82 people were to attend and Noel Osborne of Phillimore's Publishing would speak on William Phillimore Watts Phillimore, promoting founder of the Society and publisher of historic

documents, the centenary of whose death was this year. Next year's venue was not yet settled.

- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - this was to be held at the Thomas Cranmer Centre, Aslockton on 26th April 2014.
- c) Correspondence - a small number of items were circulated around the table including the Notts Historian, English Heritage's Research News and Heritage at Risk, also papers of the British Association for Local History.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) Finance - The accounts were circulated by the Treasurer. He reported that insurance was much cheaper now that we were obtaining cover through the British Association for Local History. No large amounts were expected to be required in the near future except for Transactions.
- b) Lecture attendance - the last lecture had attracted the lowest attendance since the severe weather of December 2010 - it could be that the Caves Project had received a great deal of coverage over the last few years. However, more books were purchased that afternoon. JW offered to report on attendance.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - Alan Langton had sent a note in his absence informing Council of progress in completing the programme for 2014. He would ensure that information on all excursions appeared in the Newsletter.
- b) Lectures - David Hoskins circulated the draft programme for 2014 which he and AL had drawn up.
- c) Appointment of Chairs of Lectures - January to March - The following Chairs for 2014 were agreed:- 11th January - Trevor Foulds: 8th February - Ken Brand: 8th March - David Bagley.
- d) Bookstall - all progressing well as planned by the working group.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

JM reported that a second reminder letter re non-paid subscriptions had been sent, resulting in five resignations, two making payment and 25 with no response. It was now to be assumed that the latter were no longer members. However 26 people had joined during the year. Recently a three-year subscription had been taken out as a wedding present. JM circulated the names of new members.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight had sent a report on recent archaeology in the county on which he gave further information at the meeting. There was only one major highway under development, the A453: nothing major had been found along the route since the Thrumpton Roman site. Investigations associated with

aggregate extraction continued, including Besthorpe and East Leake. Community archaeology at Bingham continued and at Farndon, where there is a nationally important early Palaeolithic site. In Nottingham, more about Lenton Priory continues to be revealed, and peaty deposits at the University indicated an important wetland site. DK also reported on the new application for funding for a substantial project at Nottingham Castle.

- b) City Planning - Ken Brand reported that a number of key buildings were to be converted to other uses; these included the former Costume Museum and Severns. There was a continued programme of demolition of blocks of flats. Work at the Forest had made significant improvements to that area and KB commended the Lodge which had been opened in August. There was a project planned to build eco-housing on the former Trent Basin. More student housing was proposed and it was feared that there may eventually be too much built for the numbers of students in the city.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril Little reported on projects. Thoroton Dovecote was now reopened after a full restoration. Other matters of interest to NBPT such as Newstead Abbey and buildings at risk were also being discussed by Thoroton.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Richard Gaunt sent a report as follows:- the Notts Historian had just been published and the re-scheduled day school was to take place on October 19th. There were also to be further day schools, one in March 2014, probably with the River Trent as the theme, and the joint day school on the home front during the Great War.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - the letter sent to the new leader of the County Council regarding heritage and archaeology services had received no response.
- f) Research Group - John Wilson reported on the recent meeting which had included items presented by Ted White on Comrades in Khaki and by JW on mass dials.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2014

14th February, 23rd May and 24th October.