

WOODHALL SPA HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016

Present; Michael Czajkowski, Colin Gregory, Neil Storey, Graham Perkins, Jennifer Frost, Sally Smithson, and Sue Stennett.

1. Michael welcomed Graham Perkins on to the committee and each member introduced themselves. Graham explained that he was doing an MA at Bishop Grosseteste University on Community Archaeology, and writing an essay entitled 'A Heritage Excavation of a Victorian Spa Town'

2. **Apologies;** received from. Adrian Wilson, Brian Joyce and Richard Sivill.

3. **Minutes of the last Meeting;** Were accepted but for changing Michael Sivill to Richard Sivill, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising;

There was discussion around communication with the Parish Council. The 'notes on meetings', produced after the last meeting seemed to have caused confusion and neither they nor the minutes were circulated to members of the PC. Jennifer confirmed that the PC were not routinely getting our minutes. It was thought that perhaps the timing of our minutes going out and/or the large amount of paperwork the PC has to deal with were factors. Sue will try to get the minutes out at an earlier time, and ask Amanda to circulate them.

Action Sue

Jennifer will continue to bring our meetings to the attention of the PC.

Action Jennifer

Sally brought a publication about an exploration done at Kirkstead Abbey. It is a Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 'Kirkstead Abbey, Archaeology Survey Report'. It was written about 20 years ago. RCHME is now part of Historic England. It recommended leaving the site undisturbed but the Committee felt this should not prevent investigation of a possible new dig (see item 6 below). Graham borrowed this to hand to Michael when he had read it and to be passed back to Sally as soon as possible. This report was done when Sally and her husband farmed the land.

Action Graham and Michael

4. **Neighbourhood Development Plan;** The meeting of Woodhall Spa's NDP committee with ELDC about the NDP has been postponed until 29th January, when it is hoped that Anne Shorland's comments can be discussed and a compromise can be reached. Colin asked Rob Walker if he knew of the criticisms in her letter, but Rob has had very little time to study it closely. He thought that perhaps one issue was whether they felt we had too many non designated heritage assets listed in the Plan

5. **Article 4;** Rob Walker has not had time to look at the comments on Article 4 and Local Development Order in detail, but his initial perception was that most were broadly positive. He thinks that ELDC will be able to go ahead with the proposals and as soon as he has the time he will proceed with the next steps in the legal process involving the formal consultation.

6. **Kirkstead Abbey Heritage Sign;** Graham told of some his ideas for the Abbey. He knows of a plan drawn by David Stocker and Paul Everson and he thought that we can find plans/pictures that would better explain the Abbey to visitors, than the ones we have, and offered to produce a drawing of how the Abbey may have looked. He also wondered about making a model, with the remaining edifice in a solid material and the rest of the Abbey in perspex, so that visitors could see what it was like. **Action Graham**
Sue reported that Sprint Signs thought they could produce a sign with aluminium supports for around £400, although the official quote had not come through.

The Limewoods project have asked if we wish to list any event we might be doing in their leaflet. It was agreed to ask Will Nelstrop if we could organise an early evening visit to the Abbey, possibly using his barn and asking David Start to lead the visit. Sue to approach Will and Graham to ask David Start. Sunday 26th June and the 10th July are possible dates with the Mondays following as second choices. Sue will liaise with Graham when she has spoken to Will. It may be necessary to make a small charge to cover costs, and we will need to publicise the visit locally.

There was discussion on how to move forward with a possible exploration/small dig of the Abbey site. It was agreed that the most important thing would be to have the landlord happy for this to happen. Graham had already aired the possibility with Will Nelstrop and Sue will broach the subject when she asks about the visit. Graham has experience of community archaeology, but has always joined in on a dig already in progress. Sue will ask Catherine Wilson as to how the work at Bardney Abbey got underway and for suggestions about finding funding. David Start and Tom Lane may also be able to help.

Action Sue and Graham

7. Tree Committee; There was no news of the Tree Committee.

8. Aims of the committee; Graham asked if we have considered getting better access to The Tower on the Moor. He felt that it is almost invisible to residents and visitors alike. We explained that we felt the Golf Club has softened its approach on visitors to the Tower, but agreed we would like to see better access and interpretation. The Tower is to have work done on it this summer as the Club have some Heritage money to conserve it, and that perhaps we try again after the work is done to ask them to allow more visitors, and signage.

He also suggested putting a Blue Plaque on Heatherlea, where Adolphus Came had lived for the last years of his life. All thought this was an idea worth pursuing.

He asked if the footings in the Pinewoods behind the shops on Station Road were the remains of ammunition stores, from the wartime. No one seems to know the exact use of these buildings, but he thought that perhaps the Woodland Trust should be asked if these works could be cleaned of the moss and plant-life so they are more visible and at less risk of deterioration. He will draft a letter for Michael to send, also asking for a new sign to replace the inaccurate one they took down.

Action Graham

9. AOB; Graham asked if it had been considered to ask Lincolnshire Life Museum if they would consider letting the refurbished Spa Baths display the original pumping mechanism. Michael thought that Geoff Cull had thought of doing this. Sue will mention it to Catherine Wilson.

Action Sue

14. Dates of future meetings; 8th February and 14th March, 11th April, 9th May

Signed.....

dated.....