



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 18th January via Zoom at 7:00pm

There were 14 members present and one guest.

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Eric and Anne Curless, Paul Kenyon, Catherine Arnold, Jan Thomas, Julie Taylor, Sheila Ramsdale, Derek Winstanley will be joining the meeting later

2. Minutes of previous meeting November 2020:

The minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

An amendment was made to add Julie Taylor to list of apologies received.

Agreed as an accurate account of the meeting:

Proposed by Richard Simpson and seconded by Neil Linford.

3. Matters Arising:

Richard Simpson had sent an update on the search for the missing stained glass window:

AP1. Richard to report back to the group when this information is available – ongoing.

AP2. Jim has made a good start photographing specific buildings

More volunteers are needed to take photographs and also to help research the stories to the buildings ...ongoing

AP3a. Tom will produce a list from memory on the King Street buildings which have been demolished these will be referred to as 'Lost Buildings' ... ongoing

AP3b. Neil and Clare will continue to attend meetings on behalf of the Society and report back ... ongoing

AP4a. Paul Kenyon will carry out an interim assessment on the possibility of a walk/trail around Twenty Bridges outlining any issues which may arise regarding landowners, access, brickwork etc... ongoing. Inclement weather and Covid restrictions have prevented progress.

AP4b. Representatives of the Society to continue to meet with the Council and report back... ongoing.

AP6a. Jim will submit an article on the mysteries of Standish Hall ...completed

AP6b. Clare will organise a meeting with Wigan Archaeological Society to discuss group membership and the River Douglas project ... completed meeting took place 25/11/2020

AP6c. The Secretary will ask the treasurer to issue a cheque for £8 made payable to Lancashire Local History Federation for group membership of the federation...completed but it was agreed a personal cheque be sent and claimed back.

4. Projects update:

Peter Fleetwood suggested we go through the reports and then open it up for discussion at the end of all the reports. This was agreed.

Gidlow Sisters Paintings and stained glass window – Wigan Infirmary Project on hold due to Covid restrictions.
Common Seal Stonework – now with planning dept to consider next steps.

Plantation gates -contacted Stuart Holden from IHL, progress has been very slow with HLF2 bid for Haigh Woodlands Trust due to Covid, but quietly confident of a successful outcome.

5. Working Group Reports:



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WIGAN LOCAL HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY					
Member Working Group					
Members:- Clare Kenyon (CK), Jim Meehan (JM), Neil Linford (NL), Sheila Ramsdale (SR), Andy Lomax (AL), Peter Fleetwood (PF), Ron Hunt (RH)					
INITIATIVES					
Initiative	Council Dept	Line Manager	Officer	Who?	Notes/Actions
Cataloguing	Archives	Neil Harris	Louisa Attaheri	PF, AL	AL to contact Louisa - arrange Zoom Meeting
Digitisation	Archives	Neil Harris	Alex Millar	PF, AL	
Volunteering	Archives	Neil Harris	Alex Millar	PF, AL	
HLF2 Haigh Woodlands	IHL	Stuart Holden		PF	PF E-mail SH for update
Historic Environment Strategy	Planning	?	Richard Macdonald	CK	CK to progress - approval/signoff,etc
King St Consortia	Planning	Neil Harris		NL, CK	OK - On-going
King Street HAZ	Planning	?		NL, CK, JM	CK to arrange meeting with RM & Phil Machin
CRT - Wigan Pier	?	?	?	NL	Neil to monitor activity
					RM - Richard Macdonald

Peter shared a table outlining the working groups.

Archives:

Peter reported that a meeting had taken place with Neil Harris (Line Manager for Archives and Museums) in favour of closer co-operation between Wigan Council and the History Society. He has been in touch with Alex Millar from Archives and Louisa Attaheri from Museums to set up further meetings. Difficult with Covid restrictions and the opening of the new Archives at Leigh Town Hall.

Planning:

Historic Environment Strategy:

Clare reported that a further meeting had taken place on December 2nd when the Council had presented slides and gave feedback on consultation outcomes, discussed exploring opportunities to engage and work more collaboratively with WLHHS.

Clare shared the slides and reported that a request had been made that we get back to them regarding ideas for engagement and collaboration.

A further meeting was arranged for January 27th to feedback with WLHHS response.

KSHAZ Cultural Consortium:

Neil reported on progress of funding bid and outlined the 3 year plan.

King Street Heritage Action Zone: Neil reported outcomes of a meeting with Neil Harris and discussions which had taken place around possible future role of WLHHS.

Wigan Pier and Canal and Rivers Trust: Neil outlined the Council plans for a light festival planned for the Pier.

6. Website and Social Media Reports:

Peter reported this is extremely successful

Website had over 5000 visits in the last few months from 45 countries.

FaceBook page has over 1500 follower

Twitter almost 500 followers

7. Volunteering and Next steps:

The meeting was opened up for questions and discussion:

Peter Powell's list of Listed buildings was discussed. It was suggested that street furniture should also be included on WB website.

A proposal was made by Peter Fleetwood and seconded by Derek Winstanley:



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To also include demolished buildings of interests. It was amended to 'lost buildings'

John Gostellow volunteered to help with this.

Derek Winstanley clarified street furniture to include listed bridges, boundary markers, milestones.

Gaps in social knowledge of buildings historically associated with old Wigan should be researched.

Rita Fell queried how research will be undertaken and emphasised that documentary evidence must come from primary sources.

Neil pointed out that there is an accessibility problem at the moment.

Discussions will take place with Archives and Local studies.

8. Wigan Archaeological Society Membership:

A meeting had taken place via Zoom 25th November with Bill Aldridge and his colleague. They outlined the River Douglas Project and discussed the two societies linking up in some way. We discussed possible associate membership. This was followed up by email from Bill to confirm that a group association could be formed which would consist of sharing links, invites to each other's meetings and receiving newsletters which would be distributed to members by each society. This will allow those interested in joining the Archaeological Society as individual associate members for the reduced fee of £5.

It was proposed by Pam Thomas that we should take up the offer of Associate membership to Wigan Archaeological Society.

Seconded by Neil Linford and carried unanimously.

9. Any Other Business:

1. Pam Thomas offered a book to anyone who may like it: Lancashire Brief Notes by Leopold Grindon published in 1881.

2. Planned Presentations:

February: Ron Hunt, Wigan Little Theatre

March: Derek Winstanley, Wigan Pier

April: Jim Meehan, A Barbarous Wigan Murder.

May: Derek Winstanley, Pony Dick

June: Peter Fleetwood, The Rise And Fall of Thomas Taylor

July: Jim Meehan, The Lost Manor of Markland (TBC)

August: Pam Thomas, Jireh Church

September:

October:

November:

December: Christmas Quiz Party