



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 26th July via Zoom at 7:00pm

The Deputy Chair Paul K chaired the meeting.

1. Number of members present and apologies for absence:

18 members were present.

Apologies were received from William Sharpe, Lynn Sahin, Pam Thomas, John Richardson, Jim Meehan

2. Minutes of the previous meeting June 2021

The minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting:

Proposed by Neil L and seconded by Derek W

3. Matters arising

The secretary went through the action points:

Completed:

June AP1. List an item on July meeting agenda to appoint a Chair. Clare

June AP3. Write to members and ask for their preferences on which day of the week to hold Members meetings. Collate and bring back to July meeting for further discussion. – Clare

June AP4. A subgroup will meet to discuss a WLHHS response to the Planning Application. Secretary to organise via Zoom. Clare

Ongoing:

April AP2. Contact Neil Harris to help progress Derek's proposal to create a piece of art work from wood to commemorate the cotton workers of Wigan, and to suggest a suitable place where it may be displayed within the Pier Complex. – Neil L

June AP2. Arrange to set up Internet Banking and PayPal facilities to enable members to pay for future subscriptions directly online - Neil L

4. Eckersley Mill

Andy gave an update on Eckersley Mill and the demolition work taking place.

Asbestos has been discovered on site so all works have been put on hold.

Andy has requested a site visit with the Conservation officer and he has requested that WLHHS is kept in the loop.

July AP1. Continue to monitor the situation at Eckersley Mill and to update the group at next meeting.

5. Nominations for Chair.

The secretary had not received any written nominations for Chair.

Derek Winstanley offered to be nominated as Chair as there had been no other nominations.
Neil Linford nominated Derek Winstanley for the role of Chair
Denise Walsh seconded the nomination
Derek Winstanley accepted the nomination for Chair.

6. Proposal to change the day of members meetings from Monday to Tuesday.

The secretary has written to all members asking if they had a preference for Monday or Tuesday evening for future members meetings.

21 responses were received:

9 voted for Monday, 8 voted for Tuesday and 5 were happy with either Monday or Tuesday.

It was agreed that Members meetings would continue to be held on Monday.

The secretary had also received 2 queries asking when face to face meetings would resume.
The secretary reported that during the pandemic all meetings had continued to take place virtually via Zoom.
During this period membership numbers have increased to over 100 with some new members joining from afar.

July AP2. The secretary should write to all members and ask for their opinions on 5 different option proposals. Clare

1. All future meetings resume Face to Face at the Cricket Club under the pre pandemic model of a presentation, followed by a members meeting.
2. All future meetings continue to take place via Zoom to enable those members who are unable to attend a meeting in Wigan to continue their membership.
3. All future presentation meetings resume Face to Face but members meetings continue to be held via Zoom.
4. Presentation meetings to alternate: one Face to Face in Wigan, with the next month on Zoom. This would enable over a 12 month period to hold 6 Face to Face meetings and 6 virtual meetings. All members meetings to continue on Zoom.
5. To continue with all meetings via Zoom but to hold a quarterly Face to Face members social gathering.

If option 2 or 3 are the most popular it will require an additional team of members to organize Face to Face to Meetings.

7. The Galleries Redevelopment

The secretary detailed a virtual meeting that had taken place between a subgroup of WLHHS members: Jan, Derek, David, Clare and Jim volunteered to be part of the response group.
Discussions had taken place and it was agreed that a formal response to object to the plans should be drafted.

This draft will be brought to the August meeting for ratification by members before it is formally submitted.

July AP3. Secretary to draft a formal objection to the Town Centre Redevelopment Plans based on the subgroup and other members opinions and present this at the August meeting for ratification by members before formal submission to the Planning Portal is made. Clare

8. Working Group Reports:

Archives:

Peter reported:

Bob Saunders has joined the research team and will assist with scanning based at Leigh Town Hall.

King Street Cultural Consortium

No update this month

King Street Heritage Action Zone:

Clare reported briefly:

On a meeting arranged with Historic England Listings team to discuss a future training package for members of WLHHS.

Jim is temporarily unavailable and the Walking Tours planned to coincide with the Festival of Archaeology in July would be postponed until September to coincide with the Heritage Open Days instead.

Priority will be given to the members of the public who had booked on the July tours.

There is an urgent need for more research volunteers. Jan has joined the group.

Wigan Pier Project:

No update this month.

Working Groups are open to all members, more volunteers are urgently needed to assist with research.

Please inform the secretary of your interest.

9. Website and Social Media Reports:

No Social Media updates this month.

Peter reported over 5000 visitors to the website.

10. Any other Business

Derek has kindly agreed to do a presentation in August on the Douglas Navigation but as this is still a work in progress has requested that it is not recorded.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 16th August at 7pm via Zoom.