



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 23rd August via Zoom at 7:00pm

The members welcomed Derek Winstanley as the new Chair.

1. Number of members present and apologies for absence:

17 members were present.

Apologies were received from John Gostellow, David Fox, Marie Garner, Lorraine Wain, Sheila Ramsdale

2. Minutes of the previous meeting July 2021

The minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

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

Proposed by Andy Lomax and seconded by Richard Simpson

3. Matters arising

The secretary went through the action points:

June AP2 still ongoing - Neil

April AP2 completed

Completed:

July action points completed or agenda items - July AP3 - Agenda item 6

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

Ongoing:

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.

Conservation Officer has not addressed concerns and issues raised.

August AP1. An FOI will be raised asking for copies of correspondence between owners Maryland Securities and Wigan Council. - Andy L

August AP2. Contact Historic England for advice. -Andy L

5. Future meetings

The secretary has sent out options 1-5 but has only received 3 replies up to now.

August AP3. Send out 5 options again and bring back to next meeting - Clare K

1. All future meetings resume Face to Face 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.All
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 organise Face to Face Meetings.

6. Galleries Redevelopment

The secretary shared a WLHHS draft objection to the plans. Suggestions for edits were made.

August AP4. Edit the draft response, recirculate to members for approval.

Submit via email to Planning Case officer and send copy to Andy Burnham, Lisa Nandy, Press, Ward Coouncillors - Clare K

7. Working Group Reports:

Archives:

Peter reported - Scanning has taken place on a C.19 Housing in Wigan Report.

King Street Cultural Consortium

Neil reported - Film on King Street is to be made to promote a snapshot of the project for publicity purposes and to inform interested artists of the brief required.

King Street Heritage Action Zone:

Clare reported briefly:

Walking Tours planned to coincide with the Heritage Open Days have been planned to take place in September. There will be four tours and priority will be given to those people who originally booked on the cancelled July tours.

Three new members have joined the research group: Karen and Marie Garner and Nicola McCarthy.

Website and Social Media Reports:

Peter reported that WLHHS Website has an average of 5000 hits per month.

Updated additional content - 4 articles published. - flooding of the Venture Pit Mine, with an original report by a winder.

21 Upper-Dickinson Street applied for a blue plaque.

150 years at St Patrick's Church.

There is lots of interest is shown from visitors living abroad.

No social media report this month.

10. Any other Business

A discussion took place regarding future presentations.
Suggestions were made about possible content.

November: Richard Simpson - The trial of Sir Francis Sharp Powell. Confirmed

December: Christmas Quiz and party?

January: Roman Wigan - speaker? Ask Ashley/Bill/Ian?

February: 2 Mills - Jim Meehan. confirmed

March: The Temperance Movement in Wigan - speaker? Jan/Clare?

April: The Grime family - Speaker? Denise?

May: Northeners - Brian Groom. Confirmed

June: Civil War in Wigan - speaker?

July: Rowbottom Square - Clare. Confirmed

August: ?

September: ?

August AP5. Place as an agenda item October meeting - Clare

11. Date and time of next meeting:

AGM Monday 27th September at 7pm via Zoom.