



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 18th October 2021 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence.

18 members were present and apologies were received from: Janet Bannister, William Sharp, Paul Kenyon, John Gostellow, Catherine Stockley, Ian Parker, Julie Taylor, Sheila Ramsdale, Richard Simpson may be late.

2. Minutes of previous meeting August 2021.

These were unanimously agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

Proposed by Andy Lomax

Seconded by Pam Thomas

3. Matters Arising: Clare

There were 5 action points in August and 1 action point still outstanding from June. All 6 Action Points will be covered as agenda items.

June AP2 covered in agenda item 7 - Treasurer update and subscriptions

August AP1 and AP2 covered in agenda item 4 - Eckersley Mill

August AP3 covered in agenda item 5 - Future Meetings - revisit.

August AP4 covered in agenda item 8 - Galleries update.

August AP5 covered in agenda item 6 - Presentation Meetings

4. Eckersley Mill. - Andy Lomax gave an update on the current situation:

Following an email sent to Historic England a reply had been received 23rd September.

Historic England is promoting a Mills in the North Campaign and as Mills at risk are an active priority they are keen to engage with the group.

It is felt that significant progress has been made.

October AP1. resubmit FOI request to Wigan Council asking for core correspondence between Conservation Officer and Maryland Securities. - Andy L

A request to the Chair was made to take agenda items 5,6,7 for discussion as a whole because depending on the outcomes they will relate to each other.

The request was agreed.

5. Future Meetings - revisit

At the AGM in September it had been agreed that face to face monthly meetings would take place at Real Crafty in Wigan with the presentation simultaneously shared via Zoom for the benefit of those members unable to be there.

Following a practice set up session there were far too many technical issues for this to go ahead as planned and a rethink is necessary for the time being.



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Bearing in mind that a service for online members needs to be continued it was agreed that for the time being presentations will alternate between live and virtual whilst a technical solution is sought.

David Fox has offered a possible solution.

October AP2. To enquire of his son, Christian if he will be available to help to record the live presentations which can then be edited and uploaded to You tube. - David Fox

6. Presentation Meetings - content/speakers

A full calendar of speakers can now be arranged for the rest of the year. A discussion took place and suggestions were made.

October AP3. Draw up a draft calendar of speakers for the period November 2021 up to September 2022 - Clare K

7. Treasurer update and subscriptions

A discussion took place around the subscription rates and it was proposed by David Fox that a flat rate fee of £10 per annum should be charged for the period 2021-22. There will be no charge for entry to presentations unless it is a fee charging speaker. This was agreed unanimously.

October AP4. Complete the setting up of a new online bank account and the transfer of funds from the existing account - Neil L and Audrey W

October AP5. Membership renewal emails will be sent to current members, to be followed with instructions on how to pay the annual subscription - Clare K

8. The Galleries Redevelopment update

It was reported that a response on behalf of WLHHS was amended and recirculated to members for approval. Following this it was duly submitted via email to the Planning Officer. The response was posted on WLHHS FaceBook Page where it was well received and shared. The post reached 12,823 people and was shared 57 times. It received 127 likes and favourable comments.

The planning committee will meet to decide the planning proposals on 2nd November at 2pm. It is open to members of the public.

9. Working Group Reports:

Archives and Training: Peter/Andy

Bob Sanders, a new member is helping with scanning.

A discussion took place around a category for Lost Buildings and at risk buildings.

Philip Powell's original BLINT list has been found and sent to Peter.



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Peter reported on progress made to date: Common Seal Stonework update - Louisa Attaheri with the planning department will find the best location for it to be displayed in the town.

It has been reported that the Gidlow Sisters' lost portraits had been stored in the cellars at the Infirmary, but at some time in the 1970-80s they had been removed and stored in the archives ... next move back to archives again.

Cultural Consortium: Neil

No report this month.

KS HAZ The Street That Was: Clare

Four guided walking tours went ahead as part of the Heritage Open Days Week. Jim M had led the walks and he gave an overview.

He suggested a possible future tour could be promoted through the Society. Peter F requested to be added to the KS HAZ Research Group.

10. Websites and Social Media Reports. Peter/Clare

Peter reported a drop in local visitors to the website and suggested that this could be due to a recent lack of publicity on Face Book.

Clare reported no Social Media update this month.

11. Discussion/questions regarding reports.

Discussions had taken place during the reports so there was no need for further discussion.

12. Any other Business

Pam Thomas is researching Medieval Burgage Plots and is considering if this can be a possible future presentation.

13. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 8th November at 7pm Presentation on the Trial of Sir Francis Sharp Powell by Dr. Richard Simpson at Real Crafty, Wigan

Monday 15th November at 7pm Members Meeting via Zoom.