



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022 via Zoom at 7 :00 pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence.

14 members were present, and apologies were received from: Rita Fell, Sheila Ramsdale, John Richardson, Jan Thomas, Lesley Price, Peter Fleetwood, Richard Simpson, Marie Garner

2. Minutes of previous meeting February 2022.

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

Proposed by Denise Walsh

Seconded by Lynn Sahin3

3. Matters Arising:

Action Points:

One still ongoing: from November:

November AP5. Draft a letter to be submitted to Wigan Council requesting that WLHHS be actively involved in the process regarding the disposal and re-siting of the heritage assets from the Galleries complex - Derek W Completed.

Update 2: Second email sent to Conservation Officer Ian Rowan. Still no response. Agreed to make an appointment to see in person.

Update 1: A letter requesting WLHHS to be recognized as community stakeholders, and to be actively involved in consultations regarding the disposal and resiting of the heritage assets from the Galleries Complex and Market, was sent via email to the Conservation Officer Ian Rowan, it was also copied to the Chief Executive and Council Leader. It is very disappointing that the email has not been acknowledged. Following a discussion on next steps it was agreed that the Secretary should politely write again on behalf of the Chair, reminding the Council of the request for involvement.

Outstanding Action Points from January meeting:

Jan AP5 – Tribute to Wigan Cotton Workers Art - Photos emailed to Neil Harris along with details and dimensions. No response and it needs resolving before Dereks' planned visit to the UK in May – Neil to chase up.

Jan AP6 – Visit to Wigan Council Archive Storage Facility.

Andy/Jim will set up the first visit. Andy will correspond with Archives to set a date for an online talk by Louisa Atahari: A visit for 5 members has been offered and also a live talk - Andy to organise.

Jan AP7 – Investigate the feasibility of a members only area on the website. – early investigations looking good. Secretary to write to members asking what they would like to see in a member only area on the website. – still ongoing.

Feb AP1 - Suggest an appropriate date and time for a training session on recording presentations to take place – David Fox – ongoing



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Feb AP4 - Secretary to write to the 10 members regarding overdue payments. - Clare K
Completed – still outstanding payments – ongoing.

March AP1 - Fill Gaps in Calendar of Speakers for July and August.
It was suggested at the February meeting that Phil Clarke may give a talk on the development of Wigan Hall – Jan Thomas to enquire.

Also contact members to see if anyone would like to do a presentation – Clare K

March AP2 – online Training Sessions – uncovering research online. Session 1 completed, 18 members in attendance. Further session Thursday March 24th. Arrange 3rd session – Training the Trainer – Jim M

4. Eckersley Mill. - Andy Lomax

Andy reported that things were happening on-site but he has had no response from the Conservation Officer Ian Rowan to update him.

Nor has he had any responses from the new owners The Heaton's or Mills at the North. Hopefully we will have an update at the next meeting in April.

5. Treasurer update and subscriptions

£200 paid by Cultural Consortium for the attendance at meetings of WLHHS representative is still outstanding.

The costs for the maps has been paid to Ron H, and the treasurer reported that the bank account is in credit by approx. £600.

10 members are yet to pay their subscription fee.

Inventory for assets still to be formulated.

6. At Risk Building of the Month

It was suggested we feature Brentwood for the April At Risk Building. Secretary will feature it on social media.

Further information is available on Wigan Buildings website.

7. Canal Boat Trip and Suggestions for future trips and visits for members:

This has been arranged to coincide with Derek and Linda's visit on Thursday 26th May at 10:00am until 6:00pm. Two boats to carry ten passengers per boat will travel from Rawlinson Bridge to Top Lock and back. There are no locks along the route.

An itinerary is to be worked out. A letter will be sent out asking for payment in advance to secure a place on the passenger list. It was suggested that a guided tour could be given en route. A meeting will be arranged to finalise details.

It was suggested that this could become an annual event for members.

March AP3: Arrange a meeting to discuss Boat Trip – Jim M

Neil suggested that a history walk along the canal flight could also be organised to coincide with Derek's visit.



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March AP4 – arrange a history walk along the Canal Flight – Neil L

8. Working Group Reports:

Projects, Archives and Training: No report.

Cultural Consortium: No report

KS HAZ The Street That Was: Training for Trainers needs to be rescheduled. Jim M will arrange this.

9. Website and Social Media Reports – Peter/ Clare:

No report

10. Any other Business

- David discussed John's forthcoming presentation which if in Word format, he will need a copy sending in advance so that he can convert it into PowerPoint in advance of the meeting.
- Andy reported that the Save the Field campaign has been a success with plans amended to remove the temporary car park planned for the field.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

1. Presentation Meeting: April 11th, 7pm at Real Crafty – My Hometown. Reflections of a Wigan Exile. By John Richardson

2. Members Meeting: Monday rescheduled for 4th Monday on April 25th at 7pm via Zoom (Clash with Easter Monday on third Monday)