



## Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

### Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 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: Sandra Smith, David Fox, Peter Taylor, Richard Simpson, Neil Linford, Andy Lomax (came later)

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting March 2022.

These were approved unanimously as an accurate account of the meeting, with two amendments:

Derek Winstanley be added to the list of apologies received and the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair Paul Kenyon in Derek's absence.

Proposed by Karen Garner.

Seconded by Denise Walsh.

#### 3. Matters Arising: Action Points:

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.**

**April Update 3: The Secretary apologised that she hadn't had an opportunity to make an appointment to meet with Ian Rowan but will write again.**

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

**February Update 1:** A letter requesting WLHHS to be recognised 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.

Three still outstanding from January:

**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 –**

**April Update: The Secretary has put Derek in touch with AI and AI the creative directors at Haigh Hall to see if they can help to find a suitable place for displaying the art work.**



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**Jan AP6 – Visit to Wigan Council Archive Storage Facility.**

**April Update: Completed** Andy has organised this.

**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.

**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.**

**April update: Google form sent out but there's a problem with the form. Secretary to resend.**

Two outstanding from February:

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

**Feb AP4 - Secretary to write to the 10 members regarding overdue payments. - Clare K  
April update: Payments slowly coming in but some still outstanding and some well overdue. Secretary will write a final letter to the well overdue ones and then remove from the mailing list if no return correspondence.**

Four APs from March:

**March AP1 - Fill Gaps in Calendar of Speakers for July and August.  
April update: covered in agenda item 7 presentations and talks.**

**March AP2 – online Training Sessions – uncovering research online. Session 1 completed, 18 members in attendance. Further session Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Arrange 3<sup>rd</sup> session – Training the Trainer – Jim M  
April update: completed**

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

**April update:** A meeting has taken place, draft itinerary produced. A pamphlet for each passenger briefly outlining the history and heritage of the area along the route. Further meetings to finalise details and arrangements for picnic lunch will be arranged.

Derek's wife Linda has very kindly offered to pay for everyone's picnic lunch and soft drinks on each boat.

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

**March AP4: arrange a history walk along the Canal Flight – Neil L  
April Update: No update carry forward to next meeting.**



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### 4. Eckersley Mill. - Andy Lomax

Andy has asked that the agenda item on Eckersley Mill be taken off the agenda for now and he will update as and when there are developments.

### 5. Treasurer update and subscriptions

Treasurer not at the meeting. No report.

### 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.

#### **April update:**

This was not featured due to pressing workload commitments - carry forward.

### 7. Presentations and Talks:

The calendar is now almost filled:

May: Brian Groom - Northerners

June: Derek Winstanley - Pony Dick – A Lost Community between Winstanley and Wigan.

July: Peter Moss - History of Brass bands in Wigan

August: (Kevin Griffin will talk about the Irish Potato Famine in August - to be confirmed)

September: King Street, The Street That Was – Heritage Open Days – KSHAZ Working Group.

This will take us up to the AGM in September and the end of 2021-2022

Need to fill the slots for 2022 – 2023 October -September

Secretary to contact members to see if anyone would like to do a presentation/or consider paying for a speaker in the absence of anyone coming forward.

Suggestions were made to consider Marianne Howell (member), Alan Davies, Yvonne Eckersley, Eileen and Eileen from BETA (member)

Another suggestion was to ask :

George Fairhurst – Wigan Mining College – it is of national and international importance.

Friends of Mesnes Park – History of Wigan Park.

Wigan Department Stores – Pendleburys, Lowes etc,

It was suggested at the February meeting that Phil Clarke may give a talk on the development of Wigan Hall – Jan Thomas to enquire.

April update: Phil has offered a guided tour of the building in June, to a small group of members.

### 8. Working Group Reports:

Projects, Archives and Training: No report.

Cultural Consortium: Request for WLHHS to come up with interesting historical snippets from the 'Street That Was' to help inspire the next cohort of commissioned artists.



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KS HAZ The Street That Was: Training for Trainers has been rescheduled to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May via Zoom.

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

Peter not present.

Clare reported FaceBook page has almost 3K followers (2754)

Most popular post of the month was the article on the Centenary of the Wigan Coat of Arms which had a reach of almost 4K people, 65 likes and 14 shares.

Twitter following is growing, 833 followers with the Society being tagged into many Tweets.

10. Any other Business

- A. AI and AI creative directors at Haigh Hall are interested in working with the Society in the near future to help establish a HH Heritage Society with researching specific to the history and heritage of Haigh Hall, it's estates and families.
- B. Jim gave an update on the dogs grave story. Crowd Funding is being used for a plaque to go next to the headstone.
- C. The Society has been informed of a time capsule was buried in the foundations of the Galleries. Add this to the list of assets which need saving.
- D. Westwood House/Hall which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century has suffered a catastrophic fire. Many people have lived there through the generations- Gaskell, Bryn, Gidlow, De Trafford.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

1. Presentation Meeting: May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Real Crafty – Northerners by Brian Groom.

2. Members Meeting: Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm via Zoom.