



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members' Meeting on Monday 17th October 2022 via Zoom at 7:00pm

In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by Paul Kenyon in his role as Vice Chair.

1. Number of Members present and Apologies received:

There were 12 members present.

Apologies were received from: Jim Meehan, Derek Winstanley, Peter Fleetwood, John Gostellow, Lesley Price, David Fox, Bob Sanders, John Richardson, Denise Walsh, Karen Garner, Marie Garner, Janice Hill.

2. Minutes of previous meeting August 2022 and a summary of the AGM September 2022

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

Proposer: Lynn Sahin

Seconder: Pam Thomas

The summary of the AGM was agreed unanimously.

Proposer: Rita Fell

Seconder: Lynn Sahin

3. Matters Arising: Clare

Action Points review:

Nov AP5

Has remained outstanding from November 2021: **Completed**

A meeting took place with Wigan Council officers, Hayley Fielden, Melanie Lamb and WLHHS Secretary Clare Kenyon and Chair Derek Winstanley (virtually via Teams from USA) Discussion took place to agree assets. WC only consider the Canopy from the Victorian market as a heritage asset, and classify everything else as furniture with no heritage value. They accepted that other items could be deemed as having a strong communal value, and as such could be considered communal assets.(having a degree of high importance to the community)

WC had assumed that all the items listed by WLHHS, other than the canopy, would be sold as scrap and the money raised would go back into the redevelopment budget. To change this could end up in a budget shortfall. Each individual item was discussed in detail:



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The four sided, highly decorative hanging clock is so heavy it will cost more to remove than it's worth.

It was pointed out to WC that the wall clock currently in the Market Hall could be the original Victorian clock. It bears the emblem of the Moot Hall which pre-dates it 1922. There is also a strong chance that it could have been made by a Wigan clockmaker.

Rita offered to look for information in the British Newspaper Archives.

Hayley WC is to speak with her boss and then take it from there.

An email has been submitted to WC from the the Chair.

July AP1: Request a further guided tour of St Wilfred's Church for members who had missed the last one - Andy

List of interested members: Karen, Jan, Pam, Rita, Clare, Paul, Lynn, David

Aug AP1: Set up a Zoom meeting to discuss ways to improve the heritage profile in Wigan - Clare - completed

At an inaugural meeting the following suggestions were made:

Include more history and heritage information on the Visit Wigan and Visit Manchester websites. Include more history and heritage sites on Google Maps and, e.g., Trip Advisor.

Create self-guided Wigan history and heritage walks and virtual tours.

Improve signs to and displays of important historical and heritage sites.

Work with local teachers to identify their specific curriculum needs for teaching the history and heritage of Wigan.

Develop a simple and eye-catching symbol(s) to market Wigan history and heritage.

Expand the day tours offered by Greater Manchester to include specific history and heritage tours.

We can never compete with Chester, but Society members feel that there is much more we can do to level the playing field....and they are willing to help.

Richard MacDonald, Wigan Council has been contacted to ask if he is willing to meet with us to discuss opportunities.

Oct AP1 research the Market Hall Clock on BNA - Rita

Oct AP2 invite any interested members to register their interest in a trip to St Wilfred's Church. - Clare

4. Treasurer update and membership subscriptions - Neil L

The treasurer reported on the finances of the Society:

Currently 65 subscribed members.

Grant from WC for additional IT equipment has finally reached the bank account.

Still some outstanding items to order.



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Oct AP3: Order screen and IT trolley - Clare

5. Working Group Reports:

Cultural Consortium:

Neil reported on progress with the first round of commissioned artists exhibitions. Two have been delivered and the exhibitions are now installed in King Street. A third is still to be completed.

Archives and Training:

Volunteers are to trace any information in the archives on the history of the market clock.

Rita Fell offered advice: to go through WC minutes which go right back to mid 1870s.

King Street HAZ

Jan updated the meeting on the ongoing research and works, the new storage system and how we are going to use it.

The HAZ Board minutes have been circulated and the next Board meeting is in December. Jan will attend to represent WLHHS.

6. Websites and Social Media Reports. Peter/Clare

No report this month.

7. At Risk Building of the Month

No report this month.

8. Wigan Buildings

An anonymous donation has secured the future of the website. The website is still continuing to attract between 4-5 thousand visitors.

New articles continue to be published regularly.

Wigan Buildings has information relating to 1100 plus now published on website.

9. Trips, Visits, Events

A list of potential places to visit has been drawn up.

Lynn is to contact The Old Courts.

Denise is to contact Hallgate Brewery.

Marie is to finalise arrangements for trip to St Johns.

Oct AP4: create a calendar of trips and events - Events Team.



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10. Christmas Quiz: arrangements.

A charge of £5 per head to cover the cost of food was agreed.

Donations of raffle prizes were requested.

Paul kindly offered to compile the quiz and Ken agreed to entertain.

Oct AP5: clarify seating numbers with Ben at Real Crafty - Clare

11. Any Other Business:

1. An email has been received about a planning application submitted for Eckersley Mill. Andy reported that he supports the application because the building is currently in such a poor state that any work to save it will be an improvement.
2. Member John Richardson is building a list of what he thinks are/were common Wigan surnames. In his opinion it's not a great work of scholarship and may not end up as a presentation. It could however be something he could share in a chat medium. John is having problems accessing Signal and asks if there's a simpler way of downloading it.

12. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 14th November WLHHS Presentation at The Real Crafty Pub Wigan.- Eric Curless.The history of Thomas Linacre and his Wigan connection.

Monday 21st November via Zoom at 7pm.