

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 2nd February 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Woodlands Club

Present: S.Crowther (Chairman), B. King, D. Sykes, P. Nowill, G. Boothman, R. Eddington, B. Fletcher, I. Hawkridge.

1. Apologies: P. Hawkridge, S. Davies.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Sheila Cameron was seriously ill and had been admitted to hospital.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of the 1st December 2009 were accepted as a true record. (n.b. the meeting of the 5th January 2010 was cancelled due to heavy snowfall).

The minutes of the fourth quarterly liaison meeting of the 4th December 2010 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

Boston Castle – the Thomas Rotherham College had not yet responded to the Society's letter.

Millmoor – Cllr Smith had responded and stated that the Council did not intend to use its statutory powers to facilitate a return of RUFC to Millmoor. The recent news that RUFC intended to develop on the Guest & Chrimes site was discussed but at this stage it was not clear whether the proposal also involved the Gloystarne warehouse or indeed whether the listed building would be incorporated in the plans.

Attention was drawn to the Liaison Meeting minutes and the fact that the All Saints Building public realm would not receive Yorkshire Forward funding until March 2011. At the same time Doncaster had been awarded £16.0m for a 'cultural quarter' and Civic Square. It was also noted that plans for an apartment building at Turnpike Wharf had been dropped and this was now to be public realm with undercroft car parking.

4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.

5. Social committee: Nothing to report.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

14 The Crofts – change of use from restaurant to lap dancing bar. It was concluded that there were no planning grounds upon which to object to this. There may be moral grounds but this was a licensing issue.

Coach House, Hooton Roberts – front porch/conversion of garages to residential use.
Hooton Common Farm – conversion of barn to residential use.

7. Major applications:

North Notts Farmers warehouse, Central Road – demolition to facilitate public realm improvements in connection with the Central Railway Station improvement. It was agreed that the Society could not object every time an old building was under threat and should be selective in its opposition.

8. Correspondence:

Volunteer Centre – 3rd Birthday event – ‘Ask My Community’.
Heritage Association minutes of the December meeting – reference to an e-mail sent to the Civic Society regarding buildings under threat (but not yet received).
Local History Courses – run by WEA.

The Civic Society Initiative:

- So far sent out 5 bulletins.
- A special general meeting of civic societies in April.
- Already setting out rules and regulations regarding the election of directors and trustees, on voting protocols e.g 20 societies would need to support any proposals to be submitted to the CSI for adoption.
- Postal ballot of all Civic Societies registered with CSI prior to the meeting.
- Very vague on what this new body will cost individual Civic Society members.

Concern was expressed over the value of a monolithic national body based in London. Some support for having a stronger regional body based on YAHCS/North West Civic Trust.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write to YAHCS to establish if the Executive Committee has reached any conclusions on whether the CSI is the best way forward.

Civic Societies Week 2010 – ‘You Get To Choose The Date’ – (but it must be between 29th May and 4th July).

9. Treasurer’s report:

Current a/c £1,108.

Deposit a/c £700.

An invoice had been received from YAHCS for the £40 annual subscription and it was agreed that this should be paid.

A deficit of £200 was projected, which may vary slightly depending upon the sale of the booklets referred to in 12 (below).

10. RMBC minutes:

- Railway environs – acquisition of former grain warehouse.
- Government response re: advertising planning applications.
- Parking on grass verges – restrictions to be extended – 13 parking bay schemes.
- The Place Survey – to be borne in mind in future decisions.
- Business Support / Town Centre grants.
- Connectivity to Sheffield & Manchester and railway station improvements.
- Chesterfield Canal Trust presentation & request to protect the route in the LDF.

- Strong Leader and Cabinet model for executive arrangements.
- University Centre, Dearne Valley based on Humphrey Davy House.
- 17-23 High Street (rear of) – agreed Compulsory Purchase if necessary.
- Herringthorpe Leisure Centre site and Boswell Street site – land sale.
- Crinoline House/Civic Offices sites – Heads of Terms in preparation.
- Dearne Valley Green Heat Partnership.
- Imperial Buildings – 4 units to be used for the display and sale of art.

Planning Regulatory Board:

- 31 Westgate – demolition of building / new pub car park – approved.
- Caravan park, Rother Valley Country Park – retrospective permission.
- Roman Granary, Clifton Park – listed building consent for the works.
- Old Hall, Brampton-en-le-Morthen – refusal of orangerie.
- My Place, St Ann’s Road – p.p. and conservation area consent granted.
There was no indication as to whether there had been any objections from the residents of Wharncliffe Hill flats.
- Boston Castle proposals approved – no reference to car parking issue.
- 22-30 High Street – reinstatement of architectural features – approved.

11. Fund raising: Nothing to report.

12. Items under review: ‘Rotherham’s Early Methodists’ publication written by the Chairman. It was agreed that the Secretary should arrange to get an initial 100 copies printed, the cost being charged to the Society’s account.

13. Any other business:

Recent press coverage of the Waverley development scheme had highlighted Sheffield City Council’s involvement. Reference was made to the aspirations for a Sheffield City Region, the fact that a City Region Chief Executive had been in post for 6 months, and the lack of a democratic mandate for this latest ‘initiative’. Mention was made of the fact that a Leeds City Region (of 11 local authorities) had been formally established in November 2009.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Council and request details of the Council’s commitment to this and the expenditure so far incurred.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2010 AT 19.00 HOURS

AGENDA

1	Apologies	
2	Minutes of previous meeting	25 minutes
3	Matters arising	
4	Organisational review	
5	Social committee	10 minutes
6	Listed buildings and conservation areas	5 minutes
7	Major planning applications	5 minutes
8	Correspondence	20 minutes
9	Treasurer's report	5 minutes
10	RMBC minutes	15 minutes
11	Fund raising	
12	Items under review	15 minutes
13	Any other business	