

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 1st December 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Woodlands Club

Present: S. Crowther (Chairman), B.King, P.Hawkridge, D.Sykes, P.Nowill, I.Hawkridge.

In attendance: Harriet, a trainee journalist.

1. Apologies, G.Boothman, S.Cameron, S.Davies, R.Eddington , B.Fletcher.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 3rd November 2009 were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters arising:

The Secretary had been in contact with Irene Hartley who had indicated that John Healey MP was happy to meet up to 30 members of the Civic Society to discuss the Core Strategy housing issue. This would not be a public meeting – the Minister would wish to set the agenda if a public meeting were to be held.

Clifton Bank – the consultation meeting required within 6 months of an Article 4 Direction being made was held at the Town Hall two weeks previously. The Secretary pointed out that all 20 residents present were in favour of the Council's action. P.Thornborrow expressed support for a blue plaque being erected to commemorate Sir Raymond Unwin. The Secretary had written to RMBC in support of the Article 4 Direction and had suggested that similar action be taken in respect of Moorgate Road.

Millmoor – The Chairman explained the situation for Harriet's benefit. There was still no response from Clr Gerald Smith to the Society's second letter. It was agreed await Tony Stewart's announcement of the new stadium site before responding further.

Wentworth Woodhouse – The Secretary read out the response from Martin Kimber (RMBC Chief Executive) to the Society's recent letter. It was confirmed that the owner had commissioned consultants to prepare a Landscape Management Plan, and a Conservation Management Plan for the buildings. Trevor Mitchell, English Heritage, had been consulted and had expressed the view that the owners are actively engaged in the restoration of the property. RMBC Planning officers are in regular contact with the owner. It was noted that Mr Kimber's response did not address the crucial issue of Wentworth Woodhouse's possible major contribution to developing the tourism potential of the Borough.

Boston Castle – The Secretary confirmed that he had written to the Clerk of the Corporation of Thomas Rotherham College regarding potential use of the building and the night time security issue.

4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.

5. Social committee: Nothing to report.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- i) Application for removal of tree next to Swinton House Club – going to appeal.
- ii) Wentworth Park and Gun Park – boundary walls.
- iii) Littlewood Road, Thorpe Salvin - satellite dish.
- iv) Main Street, North Anston – double garage.
- v) Greenside, Greasbrough – solar panels.
- vi) 22-30 High Street – restoration of architectural features – Inn Focus Group.

7. Major applications: Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence:

The Secretary stated that he recently had discussions with Peter Thornborrow regarding the Stubbin Incline, the last remaining waggonway in the Borough which remained largely intact. He had also contacted the Public Rights of Way Officer. The Executive Committee agreed to support the Secretary's initiative in raising this issue.

A letter had been received from RMBC re: the bottom of Vicarage Lane and the installation of an interpretation board or blue plaque.

Rotherham Minster floodlighting ceremony 3rd December 2009.

Heritage Association minutes:-

Karl Battersby had responded to the Association that there were no plans for the Council to purchase the Guest and Chrimes listed building as all available grant funding was allocated to other projects in the town centre.

The Association is to contact the Civic Society with the intention of undertaking a joint survey of listed buildings under threat.

9. Treasurer's report: Nothing to report.

10. RMBC minutes: Nothing to report.

11. Fund raising: May be look at the matter of publications (Early Methodism, Victorian Moorgate) at the January 2010 meeting.

12. Items under review: Environment Trophy – defer to the next meeting as Sheila Cameron particularly interested. The Secretary indicated that he did not wish to be involved in this in view of his commitment to other Civic Society issues.

13. Any other business: Further discussion on Green Belt / Housing issue in response to questions from Harriet.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 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	