

## ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

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

**Present:** S.Crowther (Chairman), B. King, P.Hawkridge, S.Davies, B.Fletcher, R.Eddington, P.Nowill, I.Hawkridge.

1. Apologies: G.Boothman, D.Sykes.

#### **Special Item:**

The Chairman opened the meeting by reflecting upon the important role that Sheila Cameron had played in the Society's and the town's affairs. Her sudden unexpected death was keenly felt by those present and was a sad loss to the Society and the town.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

- i) The Secretary reported that a number of RUFC supporters were coming round to the Society's view on Millmoor.
- ii) The Secretary apologised for the fact that he had not yet written to YHACS re: the Civic Society Initiative.
- iii) The 'Early Methodists' booklet had cost £89 to print 100 copies. At a selling price of £2 this would result in a £111 profit to the Society if all copies were sold. (n.b. It was agreed that there would be no free copies provided).

4. Organisational review:

The Secretary suggested a focus on attracting young members e.g. from the Thomas Rotherham College. Possibly a competition on what they like/dislike about Rotherham, a lower membership fee of £5, and a student member on the Executive Committee. A change to subscription charges would require approval at a special meeting, or at the AGM.

It was agreed that the proposal to introduce a student subscription rate be included in the notice for the forthcoming AGM.

5. Social committee: Nothing to report. Only B.K. remains of the original members. An appeal for members will need to be made at the AGM.

#### **Special Item:**

The Chairman indicated that at the AGM he would tell Members that he did not wish to stand for another term of office. He felt that 18 years was long enough.

The Secretary wished it to be recorded that the Chairman had done extremely useful and important work throughout the years since the Society was formed, and it was appreciated that he felt Sheila's loss very keenly. He therefore proposed that at the

AGM members be recommended to elect the Chairman as the President of the Society.

The Chairman stated that he would be honoured to follow in the footsteps of Jim Muntus and the Earl of Scarborough.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

(i) Thrybergh St Leonard's:

As previously discussed the Vicar wished to focus upon St Peter's at Thrybergh. The Church Buildings Adviser for the Diocese had now intervened, and with Canon David Bliss had attended the Parochial Church Council.

The P.C.C. had been informed that because St Leonard's was consecrated ground it would take 6 years to close it and was subject to the approval of Her Majesty The Queen. English Heritage architects were proposing to allocate £200,000 on urgent repairs to stop water ingress, and it was likely that the locality would now be designated a Conservation Area.

(ii) 10 Barker Hades Road: en-suite-toilet.

(iii) Thomas Rotherham College: relocation of War Memorial.

(iv) Wentworth Woodhouse:

The Secretary had received a copy of the 287 page Management Plan from the owners, and this pdf document could be e-mailed to committee members. It is excellent and shows a real intent by the Newbould family to restore the house and develop a plan for the stable block. Chris Cotton has approached the Society on their behalf with a view to starting a dialogue on their hopes for the future. Country Life articles 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February.

(v) Friends of Firbeck Hall: Requesting support for their efforts – which has been given.

(vi) Katherine Boyes, RMBC, has completed the High Street brochure in draft and a copy has been sent to the Secretary.

7. Major applications: Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence:

- (i) Ian Harvey, Civic Society Initiative - viewed the DVD on the website. Very complimentary. Including reference to it as an example of good practice in the next bulletin which will be sent to 1,000 civic societies across England.
- (ii) Churches Conservation Trust (South & West Yorkshire) - Referring to St John's, Throapham, and Wentworth Old Church as 'Gateway Churches', and long term plans to develop their heritage potential.
- (iii) Lesley Shepherd, RMBC – Don / Grafton Bridge: commemorative board – invite to a future meeting to discuss.
- (iv) Rotherham Heritage Association – e-mail contact with Terry Barber concerning endangered building survey. The Secretary was to attend a meeting the following Monday.

- (v) Moorgate Cemetery: Janet Worrall written to both Dignity and RMBC re: the Chapel. Neither are interested, and there will need to be discussion of an alternative use.

9. Treasurer's report:

Current a/c: £949.

Deposit a/c: £700 (with £89 to be deducted for printing the booklet).

By the year end a loss of £260 anticipated.

The authorised signatories for the bank account requires amendment. It was agreed that this should be held in abeyance until after the AGM.

10. RMBC minutes:

- RMBC to acquire remainder of Guest & Chrimes site and grant a long lease to RUFC.
- Boston Castle - acceptance of Heritage Lottery grant.
- Waverley Development planning permission.
- Development Control neighbour survey.
- Cortworth Lane. Wentworth – planning permission for stone pillars, gates etc refused due to adverse effect on listed building.

11. Fund raising:

(i) The next publication – Robin Hood?

(ii) The Secretary was asked to write to RMBC re: the stocking of publications in the Visitor Centre.

12. Items under review:

Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting:

The second Tuesday in May suggested. Possibly a speaker, such as Phil Marshall from 'Transforming Rotherham Learning', to talk about the proposed rebuilding of 5 major comprehensive schools.

This was agreed in principle.

13. Any other business:

The Conservative Party's Green Paper on the planning system:

Critical of 'top down' targets. Proposes abolition of regional spatial strategies, housing targets, excluding gardens from the definition of brownfield land etc.

The Committee generally welcomed many of the ideas to put greater emphasis on local communities and get rid of the housing targets, whilst recognising that the recently established Infrastructure Planning Commission may be beneficial in moving major national projects forward.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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	