

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 6th March 2012 at 2.15 p.m. at Talbot Lane Methodist Church

Present: B. King (Chairman), P. Hawkridge (Secretary), B. Fletcher (Treasurer), G. Boothman, R. Eddington, I. Hawkridge.

1. Apologies: S. Crowther (Honorary President), S. Davies, P. Nowill, D.Sykes.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2012 were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters arising:
 - (i) Belvedere Hotel – reference was made to a letter in the previous weeks Rotherham Advertiser from Robert Edwards and the allegations made regarding the alleged incompetence of certain Planning Board members.
 - (ii) Herringthorpe Playing Fields – reference was made to the decision of the Planning Board to turn down the application to erect floodlighting columns, and the further correspondence from Jane Morgan requesting the Society's involvement in a bid for 'Town Green' status.
4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.
5. Social committee:

Lunch date 8th March, 12.00 for 12.15, Wharncliffe Restaurant, BK to arrange a quiz. 21 people have booked to attend.
6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:
 - (i) Two small applications had been submitted to the LPA in respect of Firbeck and these had been forwarded to Valerie Oxley (Friends of Firbeck Hall) for comment.
7. Major applications:
 - (i) An application was to be submitted by RU Estates Ltd in respect of the demolition of the three rear wings of the Guest & Chrimes building. IH outlined the details of the proposal and the reports submitted in support, and read out a proposed letter of response to Signet Planning – the contents of which were agreed by the Committee.
8. Correspondence:
 - (i) Civic Voice – Civic Day, 23rd June.
 - (ii) YHACS meeting Ossett Town Hall, 28th April.
 - (iii) Rotherham Heritage Association newsletter – the Secretary has drafted an article for inclusion.

- (iv) Chris Hanby has invited the Society to send a couple of members to view 17/19 High Street which have been stripped back to their original structure internally. The Chairman and Secretary to take up the offer.
- (v) Rotherham Family History Fair 31st March – it was agreed not to apply for a stall.

9. Treasurer's report:

Current a/c £1,580 - 00.

Deposit a/c £ 700 - 00.

The Treasurer reported that:

- (i) Booklet sales have transformed the profit / loss account so far contributing a net income of £273.60.
- (ii) Pursuant to the decision made at the February meeting to join Civic Voice to take advantage of the lower insurance premium the Treasurer reported that Civic Voice membership was now £1-50/active member with a donation suggested in respect of life members. The Society has 48 life members and 29 active members. BF proposed to join Civic Voice but not make a donation in respect of life members. This was agreed.
- (iii) YHACS subscription renewal delayed due to computer problem. It has increased from £40 to £50pa from 1st January and a cheque has been sent.

10. RMBC minutes:

- (i) The Secretary outlined the details a recent report submitted to the Cabinet in respect of the Civic Theatre and the proposal to spend £540,000 on renovation works to enable the continued use of the Theatre for up to 10 years. It was noted that subsequent to the meetings convened by the Society in early 2009, RODA had had further meetings with RMBC and agreed to the provision of a large theatre for professional use and a small theatre for amateur use. In consequence RODA no longer supported the retention of the Civic Theatre. It was noted that RMBC's proposals did not include any alteration to the seating – the Secretary would write to RMBC to seek clarification.

11. Fund raising:

- (i) The Grammar School booklets are now sold out.

12. Items under review:

- (i) The Secretary raised the issue of the Society commencing a programme of Blue Plaque provision and suggested that High Street might warrant 4. It was agreed that there were sufficient funds to commence such a programme. It was agreed that advice would be sought from YHACS re any public liability insurance issues etc.

13. Any other business:

Masbrough Chapel fire – there was a wide ranging discussion with particular reference being made to the burnt out shell of the nightclub on Corporation Street. Efforts must be made to ensure that RMBC is pro-active in relation to the former chapel. There should be no question of the site being developed with a replacement furniture warehouse and it was agreed that RMBC should

be asked to take over the site and create a community garden complementary to the burial ground and Mausoleum.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 2.15 pm at Talbot Lane.

AGENDA

1	Apologies	25 minutes
2	Minutes of previous meeting	
3	Matters arising	
4	Organisational review	10 minutes
5	Social committee	
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	