

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 3rd November 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Woodlands Club

Present: S.Crowther (Chairman), B.King, P.Hawkridge, S.Cameron, P.Nowill, S.Davies, G.Boothman, R.Eddington, I.Hawkridge.

1. Apologies: B.Fletcher, D.Sykes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 6th October 2009 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

- i) The Chairman had sent a further letter to Dennis MacShane correcting his misinterpretation of RCBC's housing policies, and clarifying the Society's interpretation of the Core Strategy. Dr MacShane responded that his point had been a general one that following 1945 a great deal of housing was built on greenfield land with no protests. Irene Hartley was dealing with the proposed meeting arrangements on John Healey's behalf.
- ii) Clifton Bank – Jon Bell is researching the history of residents in the area.
- iii) Millmoor - it was agreed to wait for Tony Stewart's announcement of the new stadium location before a further response would be made by PH on the Society's behalf. The Chairman felt that apart from the economic issues it should be emphasised that Millmoor was part of the town's heritage.
- iv) Wentworth Woodhouse – PH read out a draft letter to RMBC, and circulated a brief history of the property. It was agreed that this should be sent to the Chief Executive.

4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.

5. Social committee:

There were only ten people booked for the Xmas Dinner and in these circumstances it was agreed that it should be cancelled. The Social Committee still existed and B.K commented that it was difficult but not impossible for it to continue to function without a Social Secretary.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- i) Old Hall Farm, Kimberworth: alterations proposed which were acceptable to the Council's Conservation Officer.

- ii) Boston Castle: 233 page document. Demolition of rear extension proposed. New education rooms constructed – extending into the sunken garden. P.H. to write to the TRC Governors re; night time issue, and let Janet Worrall know what the Society is doing. Representations to the Council re: vehicular access and parking issues will be held in abeyance pending progress on the Heritage Lottery bid.

7. Major applications:

The Chairman raised the proposal by H.M.Government for major planning applications to be advertised on the internet rather than in local newspapers in future. P.H. confirmed that he had written on the Society's behalf to object to this proposal.

8. Correspondence:

- i) Civic Societies Initiative – ‘Own The Future’ survey - feedback by 20th Nov. A ‘Civic Matters’ newsletter to be published, and access to National Trust properties may be negotiated. Reports in the technical press that individual civic society members may be asked to contribute between £1 and £3 per annum towards the running costs of the Civic Societies Initiative.
- ii) Rotherham Heritage Association minutes:
 - Update on Clifton Park. A ‘Garden Room’ is proposed – possible future venue for the Heritage Fair but likely to cost £22.70 per hour to hire.
 - Karl Battersby had responded to RHA regarding the Guest & Chrimes listed building.
 - Doncaster Gate Hospital – progress with RMBC.
- iii) The Annual Report for 2008 / 2009 had been submitted to the Charities Commission.

9. Treasurer's report: A balance of £1,166.45 at present.

10. RMBC minutes:

- i) Crinoline House to be vacated and disposed of.
- ii) 2008 Place Survey: Satisfaction with local area has risen, but satisfaction with the Council has fallen.
- iii) Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership's proposal for a tennis centre at Rosehill Park.
- iv) Clifton Bank boundary walls.
- v) Rackford Farm, North Anston.
- vi) Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel. Presentation by John Healey M.P. e.g. zero carbon houses from 2016 onwards, and in future ‘Right to Buy’ receipts will be reinvested in the Housing Revenue Account.

Planning Board:

- Green Lane, Thurcroft: new building for worm breeding.
- 32-36 High Street: building features to be reinstated by Chris Hamby.

- Netherfold Farm, Scholes: refusal of planning permission for extensions.
- 36 Bridgegate: change of use of shop to restaurant approved.

11. Fund raising:

The Chairman pointed out that a number of Societies publish booklets as an opportunity to make the Society better known and to raise much needed income. P.H. tabled the Victorian Moorgate booklet recently published by the Clifton Local History Group. The Chairman referred to a paper that he had written on Early Methodism in Rotherham which could be made into a booklet.

It was resolved that the Executive Committee will look actively into the issue of the Society publishing booklets relevant to its area of interest. This matter would be dealt with as an item under review in future.

12. Items under review:

The Environment Trophy was awarded to the Breathing Space development over two years ago. The time is overdue for the next round of judging. This would be further discussed at the next meeting particularly with regard to the means by which submissions are invited / encouraged.

13. Any other business:

Tony McDool passed away the previous Sunday morning. A Requiem Mass was to be held at St Mary's on Wednesday 11th November.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2009 AT 19.00 HOURS

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	

