

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 6th October 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Woodlands Club

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

1. Apologies: R.Eddington, D.Sykes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 1st September 2009 were accepted as a true record. The minutes of the RMBC quarterly liaison meeting held on the 11th September 2009 were also accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

- i) The Chairman read out the reply from Dennis Macshane M.P. to his letter of the 27th July regarding the LDF Housing Targets. The letter incorrectly interpreted RCBC's housing policy prior to 1974, and gave the wrong housing target per annum to 2026. It referred to the housing needs of local people, and to recent press coverage of the Corus steelplant. The letter basically supports the arguments put forward by HM Government and the Council in respect of Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets.
- ii) Clifton Bank:
A letter had been received from Peter Thornborrow concerning an Article 4 Direction which was to be made in respect of the boundary walls.
- iii) The Secretary referred to minute 10 of the last meeting and to correspondence entered into with RMBC regarding sustainability issues and in particular the matter of the Civic Office relocation, and the future of Millmoor Football Ground. A reply had been received from Councillor G. Smith which restated RMBC's intentions with respect to the Civic Offices, and indicated sympathy for the Society's view re: Millmoor but nothing more. Cllr Smith also indicated that a decision on the Big Screen will be made at the end of the calendar year, and a bid for a University located in the Dearne Valley will be submitted by the 8th December deadline.
Further discussion ensued on preparing a press release on Millmoor, the possible purchase of the football ground by RMBC, and the potential use of lottery money for this purpose.
- iv) E-mail sent to RMBC re: the oak tree at Swinton House Club. B. Fletcher gave evidence at the public inquiry, RMBC Tree Officer recommended it be retained. Mr Wildblood, the builder, is now appealing to GOYH.
- v) The minutes of the RMBC Liaison Meeting (11/9/2009) were discussed:

The Society cannot attend the All Saints Building working party which is to be restricted to RMBC officers.

Reference was made to the invite to P.Turnidge, Forward Planning Manager, to discuss the LDF Core Strategy. The Committee concluded that John Healey, M.P. should be invited to address a general meeting on this matter.

- vi) Relevant Society reports are now on the upgraded website. B. Fletcher and Alex were complimented for their hard work in bringing the project to fruition.

4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.

5. Social committee: Nothing to report.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- MyPlace application adjoining Wharncliffe Hill flats, and involving demolition of recently built boundary wall in the Conservation Area.
- 500 space multi storey car park on the footprint of the existing hospital staff car park.
- Agricultural building, Gildingwells.

7. Major applications: Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence:

Civic Societies event hosted by Blackpool Civic Trust on 15th/16th October.

Letter from Kevin Trickett, YHACS re: Peter Cooper's illness, and 10th Anniversary event in Harrogate on 7th September. S.Davies may possibly attend this.

A copy of the YHACS article 'New Help for Transforming Empty Shop Fronts' was to be circulated for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Treasurer's report:

Income	£1,021.70
Expenditure	£1,038.26.

The website had cost £306.20, comprising the payment to Alex, and £106.00 for a 3 year deal on a new host site which had a larger capacity.

A potential year end loss of £150 was predicted.

10. RMBC minutes:

- Clifton Bank residents petition re: protection of Conservation Area.
- RMBC Town Centre Accommodation Strategy – Civic Offices, Town Hall, temporary library/arts centre proposed etc.
- The Steelos cultural project.
- Boston Castle round 2 bid in preparation.
- South Yorkshire Transport Museum doubled in size.
- Town Centre business grants.
- Barr Park, Thorpe Hesley – transfer from Sheffield City Council.

Various Planning Board decisions re: Kilnhurst Hall Farm, Minster Yard, Potter Hill, Bellows Road shopping centre etc.

11. Fund raising:

Social Committee income likely to be less. Need to encourage new membership growth, with a big push at the proposed general meeting to which John Healey M.P. is to be invited. The importance of the next Rotherham Show was also mentioned. The possibility of generating income through the sale of publications was also discussed.

12. Items under review: Nothing to report.

13. Any other business:

The Secretary mentioned Wentworth Park – stable block, halls of residence etc, and questioned what RMBC were doing regarding the area, the buildings, and the owner, and why Wentworth did not feature as a key part of the tourism strategy. The Chairman agreed that he should write to RMBC before the next meeting raising the various issues.

S.Davies suggested a survey of members opinions regarding social events should be mailed out with the next newsletter. S.Cameron thought a questionnaire could be circulated at the general meeting (with John Healey) to both members and non members, and linked into a membership drive.

SYFAB Annual General Meeting, Oakwell stadium – no volunteers.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 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	Lister 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	

