

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 5th April 2011 at 2.00 p.m. at the East Dene Social Club

Present: B. King (Chairman), P. Hawkridge (Secretary), G. Boothman, R. Eddington, I. Hawkridge, M. Hoggard, P. Nowill, D. Sykes.

1. Apologies: S. Crowther, S. Davies, B. Fletcher.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2011 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

Eleanor Fisher has confirmed that Bailey House is to be the new location for the Archives and Local Studies service. This is to be integrated with the Museums service under the leadership of Lisa Broadest.

n.b. place on the agenda for the RMBC Quarterly meeting on 18/5/2011 – Bailey House a short term solution? – originally proposed for redevelopment in the town centre plan.

4. Organisational review:

- (i) D. Sykes circulated copies of the membership application form and encouraged committee members to recruit new members. At the forthcoming AGM he will suggest that Life Membership be increased from £50 to £100.
- (ii) P.Hawkridge referred to the Civic Voice '100 Things to Do' booklet and in particular to the reference to Blue Plaques. He is, with the Society's support, intending along with John Hargreaves to lobby the Council for a blue plaque to be fixed to the former Woolworths building in respect of the 'College of Jesus'.
- (iii) R. Eddington referred to John Griffin, a local teacher, who had recently given a talk at the Museum regarding the Rockingham Pottery. This stimulated a discussion on other possible events e.g. A walk around the Town Centre (historical interest, but also a survey of advert clutter), a trip to the Manvers redevelopment area, Thrybergh St Leonard's Church visit (Liz Bates, 2/3 Hills Close, Thrybergh is the contact).
- (iv) R. E. was put forward as an Events Coordinator, and was asked to consider the idea and to give her thoughts on the '100 Things To Do' booklet.

5. Social committee:

A plan is needed relating to AGM / Events / Open Meetings / Lunches etc throughout the year.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- (i) 33A Effingham Street - Illuminated fascia sign.
- (ii) 4A Front Street, Treeton – French windows and porch.

- (iii) Manor Barn, Kimberworth – demolition of adjoining derelict barn and replacement with three houses.
- (iv) Imperial Buildings – formation of external seating area.
- (v) Wentworth C of E Junior School – window renewals and stone repairs.

7. Major applications:

- (i) Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh – 278 houses adjoining Upper Haugh cricket club. This important application was discussed in the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy changes and the Borough's reduced commitment to 875 houses p.a.
- (ii) Guest & Chrimes, Don Street – raising land levels. Application by RU Estates.

8. Correspondence:

- (i) Civic Voice – events at Manchester and Reading / Civic Survey / join Civic Voice and get free days out at English Heritage properties.
- (ii) Civic Sense – Localism Bill, Big Society, Heritage Bill, Public Realm consultation results, Local Transport White Paper, Community Infrastructure Levy update, the transfer of community assets, the Library Campaign.
- (iii) Of particular interest in 'Civic Sense' was the reference to the future of the Heritage Lottery Fund which is expected to have more money over the next five years and is currently reviewing its priorities. Apparently only 91 Civic Societies had received funding from HLF in its 15 years with only two awards being for more than £50,000. Civic Voice would lobby for changes to the application process and criteria with the aim of encouraging more applications from Civic Societies.

9. Treasurer's report:

- (i) Current a/c: £1,211.
Deposit a/c: £ 700.

Ten copies of the 'Pub Crawl' booklet were sold at the recent Beer Festival.

10. RMBC minutes:

- (i) Bernadette Rushton, Retail Investment Manager reported on the Business Vitality Grants Scheme. 10 grants awarded and currently operating, 2 in progress, 4 awarded but not accepted. RMBC agreed to support up to 10 more retailers with rental and fit out grants, and use £175,000 LAA reward monies to support larger multiple retail and leisure operators.
- (ii) £10,000 allocated from the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund to support the leasing and refurbishment of the top floor of the Westgate Chambers for use by ROAR as studio and rehearsal space. Includes up to 10 low cost workspaces, community workshop space for visual arts and crafts, supported office space including hot desking, and a base for the ROAR organisation. £50,000 also allocated from the 'People's Millions' award scheme. ROAR also applying to Arts Council England for £210,000 over three years to continue the work of the business and move it towards a position of sustainability.
- (iii) South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy prepared by the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership on behalf of Transform South Yorkshire. The document, which was required as a condition of Growth Point Funding from the DCLG, proposed a 20 year vision for improving the sub-region's network of key green

infrastructure. This would form the basis for the preparation of a Masterplan, and also provide part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework.

11. Fund raising: The booklets are still selling well.

12. Items under review: None.

13. Any other business:

- (i) The need for a new Civic Hall in Rotherham was discussed in the context of the loss of the Assembly Rooms, the Clifton Hall, the Arts Centre closure, the uncertain future of Bailey House etc. Currently, by default, Magna fulfils the function of a conference, events, and dining venue. The Committee viewed the ‘Civic’ need to be far wider embracing civic functions, and the need for accessible, low cost, meeting and events space for community organisations.
- (ii) R. Eddington wondered whether the Society could do anything about the proposed closure of many of the town’s youth centres. The Secretary indicated that the potential for involving the Co-operative Group’s community unit had been raised with the Kimberworth Park youth centre; reference was made to the involvement of the Co-operative College in the Winterhill School proposal.
- (iii) The Coalition’s recent Budget included the announcement of an Enterprise Zone in the Sheffield City Region, and an indication that businesses will also be permitted to prepare the new Neighbourhood Plans.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 3rd MAY, 2011 AT 14.00 HOURS AT THE EAST DENE SOCIAL CLUB.

AGENDA

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| 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 | |

