

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 7th February 2012 at 2.15 p.m. at Talbot Lane Methodist Church

Present: B. King (Chairman), P. Hawkrige (Secretary), G. Boothman, R. Eddington, D. Sykes, I. Hawkrige.

1. Apologies: S. Crowther (Honorary President), S. Davies, B. Fletcher, P. Nowill.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December 2011 were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters arising:
 - (i) Belvedere Hotel – DS has had his ‘ears bent’ by local residents. TRC is objecting to the proposal. The Planning Board minutes state that planning permission is not required. This was questioned by the Executive Committee members present. An e-mail from Paul Thompson, the owner of Moorgate Hall calls for the listing of the building.
DS drafted out key points of objection for the Secretary to compile a letter to the Council.
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.
6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:
 - (i) Replacement of outbuildings with new extension, new forecourt, and re-building garden house at Langold Farm, Barker Hades Road, Letwell.
 - (ii) Relocation of the Hastings Clock, Effingham Square.
 - (iii) Alterations to courtyard including installation of roof to form enclosure, extension to residential curtilage, formation of new access and erection of detached garage and erection of entrance gates at the Lodge House, Firbeck Hall, Firbeck - The Secretary contacted Valerie Oxley, Friends of Firbeck Hall. She had had a recent meeting with the owner’s architect but was not aware of the current planning application. Information on future applications that come to the Society’s attention will be sent to her.
 - (iv) Erection of 2 storey dwelling at The Grange, Worksop Road, Aston.
 - (v) Demolition of existing building at Mill House, Mill Road, Treeton.
7. Major applications:
 - (i) Demolition of existing buildings, and erection of a Tesco retail superstore (use class A1), petrol filling station, car parks, and landscaping at Walker Place - reference was made to the recent front page article in the Rotherham Advertiser detailing the Civic Society’s concerns.

- (ii) Herringthorpe Playing Fields
IH referred to the briefing note that had been circulated with the agenda concerning the proposal by the Council to lease land off Boswell Street / Badsley Moor Lane to the Rotherham Rugby Club. In further clarification a plan of the site involved was tabled at the meeting.

The Secretary indicated that:

- The National Association will financially support the floodlight provision if the site is fenced off.
- Last Thursday the Planning Board was informed that planning permission was not required for the fencing but only for the floodlights.
- Correspondence had been received from Jane Morgan representing local residents and this was read out at the meeting. (500+ objections after a leaflet drop. No car parking, no toilets, lighting nuisance. Planning Board report & recommendations not objective and impartial).
- He had contacted Clr Barry Kaye who indicated a decision had been deferred pending a site meeting.

The Committee agreed with Jane Morgan's comments and agreed that letters be sent to local Councillors and the Advertiser.

8. Correspondence:

- (i) Civic Voice – Heritage Open Days, Common Voice Network, Heritage Counts events (Winchester & Birmingham), Neighbourhood Planning workshops at 5 venues.
- (ii) YHACS AGM, Leeds, 28th January 2012.
- (iii) Rotherham Heritage Association minutes 12th December 2011 meeting.

9. Treasurer's report:

Current a/c £1,636 - 00.

Deposit a/c £ 700 - 00.

- (i) It was reported that Civic Voice was now offering insurance cover at £140 p.a. compared with Blue Fin at £200 p.a. The Treasurer had recommended joining Civic Voice and paying the £75 p.a. based upon current membership and taking advantage of their insurance cover. This was agreed.
- (ii) The rental for the room at Talbot Lane had not yet been paid.

10. RMBC minutes:

Reference was made to the recent Cabinet meeting at which the results of the public consultation on the Local Development Framework were reported. The consultation ran from 4th July to 16th September 2011 and resulted in 7,000 comments being received by the Council. Details of the Council's recommended response included '*save any release of Green Belt land to the longer term when all other options have been exhausted*'. This seemed to be at variance with the Council's current discussions with the Fitzwilliam Estate regarding Bassingthorpe.

11. Fund raising:

- (i) The Grammar School booklet is selling well through Old Boys Association, Phillip Howard Books and the Visitor Centre. The manuscript has now been sent to the Association so that they can produce more copies if desired.

- (ii) Potential income from the various booklets – Visitor Centre (£135), Local Archives (£80), Phillip Howard Books (£200).
- (iii) The Secretary additionally reported that the Clifton Local History Group had been wound up but in so doing had agreed to pass any income from future booklet sales to the Civic Society. It was agreed that in return for this gesture Kathleen Cronk and Pauline Quail would be offered complimentary free membership of the Society by DS.

12. Items under review: Nothing to report.

13. Any other business:

- (i) RCAT's Howard Building – recent press reports regarding the relocation of the Granby Howard children's nursery suggest that RCAT intends to dispose of this building which was officially opened in October 1931. Following modernisation work to other RCAT properties students will no longer use the Howard Building after September 2012. Potential listed building?
- (ii) Guest & Chrimes – the Society need to continue to closely monitor developments with regard to the New York Stadium and Riverside House, the flood protection measures, and any proposals brought forward that might affect the Society's current view that the Don Street facade of this listed building be incorporated into future redevelopment of the site.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 6th March 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	