

## ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

### Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at Woodlands Club

**Present:** B. King (Chairman), S. Crowther (Honorary President), P. Hawkridge ( Secretary), B. Fletcher ( Treasurer), G. Boothman, S. Davies, R. Eddington, I. Hawkridge, M. Hoggard, P. Nowill, D. Sykes.

1. Apologies: None.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising:

- (i) Regarding the future venue for Executive Committee meetings, the Secretary had identified the Manor Barn at Kimberworth which would be available from 2pm. to 4pm. at no cost. M. Hoggard put forward the alternative of the East Dene Club which would be available at a cost of £10. S.C. and P.N. expressed a preference for this location. As the Society has already paid for the Woodlands for the next three months it was agreed to try the East Dene Club on a trial basis without cancelling the Woodlands booking.
- (ii) Ken Dunn has agreed to do a talk in early May which could possibly be combined with the AGM. As a consequence of holiday arrangements it transpired that the most likely date for the AGM was the 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- (iii) Environmental Trophy – no-one currently at the Learning Disability Service was there when the trophy was originally presented, nor have any recollection of seeing the trophy.
- (iv) A notice has been placed on the TRC notice board regarding student membership. The Secretary suggested that an essay competition be held in the English Faculty to stimulate interest. The subject could be the best and worst buildings in Rotherham. The Secretary to progress the details.

4. Organisational review:

D.S. indicated that a former Nottingham Civic Society member had joined the Society. He suggested a recruitment campaign with each Committee member being given three sets of application forms.

The need for more open meetings as a means of boosting recruitment was discussed. Topics ranging from Rotherham Renaissance, the Manvers redevelopment, local conservation matters (Matthew Peck, RMBC) were discussed.

The Honorary President considered that there was an urgent need for a Programme of Events to be prepared.

5. Social committee:

18<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon, at the Brecon Hotel – Quiz hosted by the Chairman.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- (i) Manor House, Kimberworth – demolition of a listed barn currently used in association with a nearby lighting business and garage. Proposed to replace with three houses. The Secretary had visited the site and expressed the view that we should not object in view of the very poor condition of the building.
- (ii) High Street, West Melton – light industrial unit proposed to be replaced with residential.
- (iii) Needles Eye, Wentworth – application to clean the stonework. This was welcomed.

7. Major applications:

- (i) Rotherham United FC has submitted an urgent application for a two phase scheme to raise the site levels at Don Street. Comments required by 8/3/2011 on the proposal which involves moving spoil from Maltby Colliery via Maltby, Hellaby, M18/M1, Centenary Way, Main Street and Don Street. 1<sup>st</sup> phase 49,000 cubic metres to be moved in an 8 week period.

It was noted that the Chairman will be away at the time of the next Quarterly Meeting with RMBC on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, and it was agreed that Mike Hoggard would attend in his place.

8. Correspondence:

- (i) Liz Bates, St Leonard's Church, Thrybergh re: £229,000 restoration scheme. Heritage Lottery Stage 1 grant of £23K approved, and Stage 2 grant of £116K in principle. The Church need to match fund but only has £20,000 in its restoration fund. The Secretary has sent SYFAB details and information on charitable donors. Future Civic Society visit?
- (ii) English Heritage 'Conservation Areas' meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> March at Dewsbury Minster. Nobody volunteered to attend.
- (iii) Civic Voice meeting hosted Manchester Civic Society, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- (iv) 'Civic Day' three hour interactive workshop, Sheffield, 30<sup>th</sup> March.

9. Treasurer's report:

- (i) Current a/c: £1,127.  
Deposit a/c/: £ 700.
- (ii) A surplus of £50 is anticipated by the end of the financial year.
- (iii) A formal resolution was carried that the Bank Account signatures to be changed to BK/BF/PH.
- (iv) Blue Fin has been in contact to confirm that the Society can take out the special Civic Society insurance at £200 pa without joining Civic Voice, and this has been done.

10. RMBC minutes:

The Secretary referred to the £300,000 scheme to create a new public space on the site of the former All Saints Buildings. He read out a letter of objection from a local

shopkeeper. The Executive Committee confirmed that it supported the Council's proposals.

11. Fund raising:

The sale of the four booklets is going well. The Clifton Local History Group has agreed to sell copies on its stall at the Family History Fair on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

- (i) CAMRA are selling copies of the 'Pub Crawl' booklet at the Beer Festival at Magna.

12. Items under review: None.

13. Any other business:

- (i) The Secretary referred to the site of the Ring O'Bells in Church Street, and the assistance given to RMBC in relation to the interpretation board. Brass markers are proposed to be placed in the floorscape and it was agreed that the Honorary President would meet the RMBC officer to discuss the outline of the public house.
- (ii) Item 6 (iii) above prompted a discussion on Keppels Column. The Secretary indicated that 80,000 visitors p.a. would be needed to justify Heritage Lottery funding of £1.0m for its full restoration. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Barry Kaye, Chairman of the Friends of Keppels Field.
- (iii) The Secretary had attended the Rotherham Heritage Association AGM. Discussion had taken place on the future of RMBC Archives, and the Government policy on Archives issued in November 2009 which contained 5 key principles. RHA want the Archives to be relocated to the former Doncaster Gate Hospital. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Clr Ian St John. Reference was also made at the AGM to the 'Steelos' Project and the 'Hearts of Steel' DVD which would be launched at the Civic Theatre on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- (iv) The Secretary drew attention to the additions which had been made to the Society's website and recommended members to view it and the links it provided to other websites.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011 AT 14.00 HOURS AT THE  
EAST DENE CLUB.**

## 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	