

Madeley Living History Project
Minutes of Management Committee 10th December 2015, 6.30pm
Jubilee House

Present: Jonathan Lloyd (JL), Grant Foden (GF), Cllr Sue Taylor (ST), Cllr. Gill Green (GG), Rob Pooler (RP), Sue Beech (SB).

In Attendance: Andy Rose (AR)

Apologies: Keith Osmund Smith (KOS), Cllr Robin Coates (RC).

1. Appointment of Chairman 2015-16

JL was unanimously reappointed as Chairman of the Committee.

JL asked members to observe a minutes silence in memory of Veronica Jubb, a former member of the Committee and an active member of the Madeley History Group, who had sadly passed away.

JL expressed his thanks to Janet Doody and Steve Leggett for all their work on the Living History Project. Sue Beech was welcomed as a new Committee member.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 17th August 2015

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Only very small items had been incurred since the AGM.

4. Update on Madeley Town Council Projects:

4i: Anstice Hall:

A bid was submitted by ACT to the Pride in your Community High Street fund, managed by Telford & Wrekin Council. The bid was for £56,571 and covered the restoration of the front porch. This will involve restoring the stonework which is currently painted, as well as the iron gates and tiles. The scheme was based upon a report prepared by Chris Pike, a local conservation engineer. Local firm Eura Conservation Ltd have also advised on the treatment of the iron gates. It is important that we follow a sensitive conservation strategy, ahead of any major restoration. A decision on the funding is expected in January.

PCPT architects who are linked with **Peter White** have been commissioned to prepare an Options Appraisal. The first meeting with the consultants took place in November. The consultants are now collating information to familiarise themselves with the building and area.

We have also developed a very exciting link with the University of Wolverhampton through Paul Boden who is both a member of ACT and a lecturer at the University. As well as producing technical drawings of the building that can be used to generate floor plans etc., their architecture students

have chosen the building to use as an assignment. Their schemes will be presented to ACT/Madeley Town Council next year, including their wooden models of the building. AR & KP gave a briefing session to the students at the University and the students in turn visited Madeley in November. It is hoped that other projects can be developed with the University to support the Anstice Project.

The Christmas lights event was very well supported, despite the weather. ACT Communications and marketing Group have a number of other fund-raising projects programmed. They include:-

- **Soul Night – 19th December**
- **Tea Dance – 13th February**
- **Comedy Night – 30th April**
- **Fruit Machine (local band) - 14th May**

The Pride in Your Community bid towards the cost of a Community Play was not progressed.

There was a general discussion about communication with the local community and the problems caused by misinformation. There will inevitably be rumours about the future of the Anstice. ACT and the Town Council need to provide simple straightforward information as the project progresses.

The Living History Project will have opportunities to get actively involved by supporting any heritage work that is needed for funding bids. For example, a joint initiative with IGMT could provide a strong heritage component, such as an Anstice trail. The Museum also holds material that was donated by David Anstice which is kept at Coalbrookdale Library. The full extent of this archive needs to be investigated.

4ii War Memorial & Commemorative plaque

A funding bid has been made to Telford & Wrekin Council Pride in your Community High Street fund. The bid was for £41,971. Members had agreed by email to front the bid because Telford & Wrekin Council had flagged up that state aid rules might prevent the Town Council from being the accountable body. This was ratified at the meeting.

A decision is expected in January.

Resolved

That Madeley Living History Project front a bid to the Pride in Your Community High Street Main Fund for the refurbishment of Russell Green.

5. Update on Madeley History Group projects.

5i TDC photographic archive.

A lottery bid was submitted in November. As previously agreed, the submission only covers Madeley Centre (1,000+ photographs) rather than the whole Parish

collection of 2,500. This project would get 5 volunteers trained up and familiar with the digitising equipment and working arrangements. We would also see how well the remote cataloguing worked. We could then look to do further phases (the Woodside & Sutton Hill folders) at our leisure. It would not overcommit the volunteers to taking on too big a task that they might fail to deliver, with all the resultant problems. 12 months has been allowed to carry out the work to give people sufficient flexibility.

5ii 100th anniversary of the death of Thomas Parker.

The Thomas Parker day went very well. The plaque was erected at the Valley Hotel.

Lottery bid was unsuccessful for restoring the Thomas Parker grave. Family members decided that they did not wish to pursue the scheme at this time. Could consider a less intrusive clean up next year.

5iii 200th Anniversary of the death of Mary Fletcher.

Excellent talk by Dr Forsaith on Mary Fletcher at the AGM in October.

6. New Projects

6i Community Day – 8th March 2016

Invite from Wrekin Local Studies Forum to have a display at the Community Day at Wellington Library. It would provide an opportunity to promote the work of the Group and see what other local history groups are working on.

RP will discuss further with members of the Madeley History Group.

6ii John Rylands Library, Univ. of Manchester

Approach from Chloe Jeffries of John Rylands Library, Univ of Manchester. Approach to see if local history group would be interested in participating in a project around the Mary Fletcher collection of letters.

RP reported that had made contact with Chloe and had fed back a positive response. Await further action.

6iii Wenlock minute book

Approach by Much Wenlock Town Council to Madeley Town Council about conserving the first minute book of the Borough of Wenlock and celebrations for its 550th anniversary. It was indicated that contributions would be sought from all the parishes that used to be part of the Borough of Wenlock.

It will be reported to Leisure Committee in January. Further information will be requested as to:-

- Which Councils have been approached
- Has grant funding been considered
- What is contained in the Minute Book and what is its relevance to Madeley

It was agreed that the book was a very important document and was worthy of support.

7. AOB

JL informed members about a new website aimed at promoting industrial heritage. It is called www.gooseygoo.co.uk.

AR asked if anyone had any anniversaries in mind for next year. None were raised. Members are asked to think about any new projects for the next meeting.

9. Date of next meeting(s)

- i. Thursday 10th March (Jubilee House (6.30 start))**
- ii. Thursday 23rd June (6.30 start)**
- iii. Thursday 15th September (AGM venue to be agreed 6.30 start)**
- iv. Thursday 8th December (6.30 start)**

RP will sound out Rev Walden about using St Michael's as the venue for the AGM. Any suggestions on speakers would be welcomed.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.