

Madeley Living History Project
Minutes of Management Committee 23rd May 2019, 6.30pm
Jubilee House

Present: Grant Foden (GF), Gill Green (GG), John Corrock (JC), Cllr. Robin Coates (RC), Dave Woolley (DW).

In Attendance: Andy Rose (AR)

Apologies: Jonathan Lloyd (JL) Cllr. Sue Taylor (ST).

2 Co-option

Gill Green has stood down as a Town councillor in the May election. She asked if she could stay on the committee as a community representative. New community reps can only be elected at the AGM. In the interim, it was suggested that Gill is co-opted onto the Committee.

RESOLVED – That Gill Green is co-opted onto the MLHP Management Group until she can be formally elected as a community rep at the next AGM.

3 Minutes of the last meeting on 28th February 2019

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

GF attended a meeting at Shropshire Archives on the **26th March** to go through the 26 large boxes of TDC photos plus boxes of slides and negatives. They counted 15,000 photos that still need to be catalogued and digitised. The preferred approach from the WLSF was to hold an open meeting to try and gain more support for the project. GF felt that there was not much appetite in many of the local groups to get involved and he did not feel that another WLSF meeting was going to be productive.

DW suggested that they should continue with the Madeley group who are already trained. As further photos are made available it might encourage additional people to get trained up.

GF said he would discuss further with Mary McKenzie and Marilyn Higson. They may hold another sub-group meeting to discuss the best way forward. Venue to be agreed.

5 Treasurer's Report:

All the paperwork has now been completed and sent off to add Grant as a signatory to the Bank account. Copy of report was not ready for the meeting but is attached to the minutes.

6 Update on Madeley Town Council Projects:

6i: Anstice Hall:

The clearance of the known asbestos has been successfully completed by CES. This does not mean that we are necessarily totally clear of asbestos as more might be uncovered as the major strip out begins.

Work has now started on stripping out of the downstairs area which will begin to reveal the hidden beauty and true significance of the Anstice. Removal of the wooden cladding that was installed in the 1960's has already revealed lovely painted brickwork as well as unexpected windows and archways that had been blocked in and hidden from view. Every effort will be made to retain and incorporate these features into the refurbished building, where practicable.

The foundations for the new lift have been started. The work is being checked by an archaeologist to make sure that the excavations do not reveal anything of historical importance.

The contractor reported that the refurbishment was around 5 weeks behind schedule because the extended asbestos clearance and need to redesign some supporting beams in order to retain historic arches/alcoves that had been uncovered. The biggest risk concerning any delays to the project remained the possibility of uncovering any further asbestos within the building. Completion is now scheduled for November.

JC is being given access to take a full photographic record of the restoration.

Crofts are returning to finish the porch in mid-June.

Gemma Aston has been appointed as the Building manager.

6ii St Michael's churchyard

Anstice grave has been tidied up.

7 Update on Madeley History Group projects.

7i Prince Street and Station Road - 18th May 2019

It was agreed that the event had been very successful. The Marks room was full and a number of people decided to leave when they could not get into the room.

Learning points

- Pays to advertise/promote
- Sensible to have a dry run to time the presentations
- Need to be explicit about event. Some people thought it was an exhibition rather than a presentation.
- Keep free but could ask for donations.

The Committee agreed that the Prince Street/Station Road event should be re-run. (**AR** confirmed that the Marks room can be used for the re-run at nil cost. After sounding out the speakers, the **21st September** was chosen).

7ii History on foot event.

Walk along the Shropshire Canal route is planned for **15th June**. 2.00 start from Miners Arms. Finish by Madeley Station.

JC/DW/AR walked the route to carry out a risk assessment. The steps down the side of the Incline plane are steep. This will be pointed out to all people that book a place.

DW has volunteered to be the back marker

AR said that he had already received bookings for about 20 places. **Neil** has suggested a limit of around 25.

7iii AGM

AR did not think that it was wise to plan on the Anstice being available in December. There has already been slippage on the refurbishment programme.

It was decided to keep the AGM separate from the annual talk.

It was agreed that the AGM would be part of a regular meeting on the **12th December** at Jubilee House.

8 Any Other Business

The Madeley Living History Group had been invited to attend two community events. It was agreed to cover both of these events and use some of the display materials from the Prince Street/Station Road event plus perhaps a laptop running with images of interest.

St Michael's annual fete Saturday 6th July

JC agreed to attend. **JC** will co-ordinate what support from others is needed.

Lawley & Overdale Annual History Day at St. John's Church Hall, off Dawley Road Saturday 14th September

GF will attend and coordinate support for the event.

9 Public Presence

It was agreed that the current name of the charity was misleading. **Living history** is an activity that incorporates historical tools, activities and dress into an interactive presentation that seeks to give observers and participants a sense of stepping back in time. It may have been chosen because one

of the early projects involved Victorian dress & food. The charity now covers a wide range of activities, including restoration of buildings, researching leaflets and digitising photographic collections. It was felt that a simpler name that was easily understood should be used.

RESOLVED – That the name of the charity is changed to Madeley History Group.

AR will investigate what is needed to change the name on the charity commission web site.

GF proposed we should look at setting up a website and Facebook page for Madeley History Group as the next steps in improving our Public Presence. The Committee were supportive and GF offered to carry out research and bring a proposal back to the Committee.

AR will check with Brenda Smith if she knows of any funding for website development etc.

AR spoke again to Paul Boden at the University of Wolverhampton about whether there might be students looking for case studies to use as their university research project. Paul will sound out his contacts for next years intake.

10. Events Programme 2019 update

10i Anstice Formal Reopening – February 2020

AR confirmed that the date chosen for the formal opening was the weekend of the 14th February 2020. This date commemorates the original opening of the Anstice (16th February 1870 i.e. 150 years) and the birth of John Anstice (16th February 1810 i.e. 210 years).

AR suggested putting on a talk and exhibition as part of the celebrations. AR has given a talk on the Anstice before. Would need to be updated to include the story of the refurbishment. Thought also needs to be given to the display of artefacts in the building. The History Group could have a role in deciding what is displayed.

AR mentioned the possible restoration of the Anstice tomb in St Michaels. AR is struggling to find cast iron specialists that could quote for the work.

AR is going with Gemma Aston to meet Gillian Crumpton at IGMT to talk about their possible involvement in the celebrations.

10ii Upper House

There is considerable local concern about the deteriorating condition of Upper House.

GF agrees to write a letter to Cllr Carolyn Healy – T & W Council Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy & the World Heritage Site to ask if the Borough Council might be willing to intervene.

Cllr RC says he will speak to the owner about his plans for the building. The owner is currently developing the former MOT station site on Ironbridge Road.

11. Date of next meetings

a. Thursday 5th September (McGavin)

b. Thursday 12th December (AGM McGavin) decided to stick with the AGM on **12th December** in the McGavin room. Even if we get others attending the AGM, we can fit them in by putting some of the seats out around the walls as we do for the Tuesday meetings where we've had up to 30 people in the same room.

Meeting closed at .8.00 pm.

DRAFT