

## **MADELEY LIVING HISTORY PROJECT Management Group Meeting 24.01.02.**

### **Notes from the meeting**

**Present:** Cllr Rob Breeze, Marilyn Higson, Ben Whittle, Francis Jones, Jonathon Lloyd, John Powell, Kath Petty, Fay Bailey, Chris Knight

**Apologies:** Cllr Dave Davies, Cllr Peter Taylor.

### **1. Constitution**

Kath Petty distributed a draft constitution that had been prepared by the Council for Voluntary Services with a view to preparing for registration for Charitable status.

Chris Knight led the discussion and cautioned the meeting that the model constitution may require some amendments when it was submitted to the Charities Commission.

The meeting considered the constitution and agreed the following amendments: -

#### **C Objects**

Delete C1 and substitute: -

'To improve the quality of life of the residents of Madeley Civil Parish and engender civic pride by: -

- a) stimulation of public interest in local history.
- b) promotion of community education projects.
- c) collection and maintenance of archive resources.'

Delete C2

#### **E Membership**

There was further discussion around the issue of membership. It had been intended to start recruiting members within the next few weeks. Chris Knight advised that this would be premature and that membership should wait until the constitution had been adopted.

#### **G Committee**

- substitute 'fourteen' for 'eleven'

Jonathon Lloyd queried the number of Local Authority representatives nominated for the committee and asked if the proportion was too high. Chris Knight agreed that in the case of a company this would be so, but thought that it was acceptable for a Charity. Chris will check and report back to Kath.

It had been anticipated that the constitution could be adopted at the meeting, however, Chris Knight informed the group that it should be adopted at a General (public) Meeting. This would require proper advertisement and could be run alongside an event to ensure a reasonable level of public participation.

Marilyn Higson informed the meeting that Local History Week takes place at the beginning of May and it was: -

## **Agreed**

That an event for the Living History Project is organised to take place during Local History Week, at which a General Meeting will be held in order to adopt the constitution. A further meeting will then need to take place, at which the constitution can be signed.

A further opportunity to publicise the project is on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at Coalbrookdale Museum. The museum is open all day and free of charge to the local community. It was:

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## **Agreed**

That the Living History Project should be part of the event - the nature of the involvement to be decided.

## **R     Procedure at General Meetings**

There was some concern that the constitution calls for at least 10 members or 10% of the membership (whichever is the greater) to be present at General Meetings based on previous experience the group doubted whether this would be achievable. Chris Knight informed the meeting that this was a requirement and the project would need to look at imaginative ways of encouraging members to participate.

Further tasks to be completed with reference to the constitution: -

- Write formally to all the nominating organisations - Kath
- Distribution of information on the responsibilities of Charity Trustees – Chris Knight

Before the constitution is submitted to the Charities Commission a bank account will have to be opened (in the same name as the charity) with at least £1,000 income.

It was agreed that as the constitution had not been formally adopted there was no immediate necessity to elect Officers of the committee.

## **2. Living History Project Manager's report**

A feasibility report on 'The Nine Men of Madeley' had been distributed to the group prior to the meeting. At the meeting two further reports were distributed: -

- Evaluation of the 'Christmas Stories' project.
- Current activities.

The meeting agreed that The Nine Men of Madeley would be an excellent project. It was commented that the extensive mining activity that took place in Madeley has no public record or acknowledgement (other than the steel sculpture by the Miners Arms) and that this very important piece of local history, that shaped both the landscape and the people, needed proper acknowledgement. The restoration of the memorial would make a significant contribution to local understanding and civic pride.

The scope for the project is huge. There are also possibilities of extending the work to take in other graves and the Brook memorials inside the church, leading to the production of a graveyard trail.

Other pieces of work are documented in the reports.

The meeting agreed that the Project has already generated much interest and the proposed new projects will make an exciting contribution to local life.

Next meeting: -  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30 at Madeley Library**