

Madeley Living History Project

Minutes of the meeting held 15th April 2004, 7.30 at Madeley Library, Russell Square, Madeley

Present: Ben Whittle (Chair), Jan Doody (Treasurer), D Bailey, Barbara Hardman, Derek Williams, Sue Laflin, Gillian Weaver, Marilyn Higson, Johathon Lloyd, Dave Davies, Gill Green. Shelagh Lewis, Kath Petty.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Gwen Groves and John Powell.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

With the addition of the following amendment: -
To record Sue Laflin as having sent her apologies.
The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurers Report

Jan Doody reported that there is a balance of £1,0020.23 in the group account. No transactions have taken place since the last meeting.

4. Charity Commission

Following a request from the Charity Commission that the educational value of the project be confirmed by an external source, Fay Bailey (English Heritage) had been asked to write on behalf of the project. The letter had been sent and the response from the Charity Commission was awaited.

5. Signature of Constitution

As agreed at the last meeting, minor amendments had been made to Section G of the Constitution. The amended constitution was signed by all present.

6. Update on Projects (MLHP & others)

6.1 Sutton Hill Book

The book is currently with the printers. It is hoped that the official launch will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May. To be confirmed with the Chair of Madeley Parish Council.

6.2 The Nine Men

The information leaflet explaining the background to the Nine Men's Grave is also with the printers. The educational booklet is complete but yet to be printed.

Staff from the Heritage Lottery Fund have arranged to visit the Nine Men as part of their away day, taking in other lottery funded projects in the region.

6.3 Graveyard Survey

Progress has been relatively slow due to cold and wet weather, but the work is picking up as the weather improves.

Dennis Jones, one of the volunteers is moving out of the area and will be unable to continue with this and his other voluntary work for the project. Shelagh asked that his help and invaluable contribution to the work of the Living History Project be recorded. This was endorsed by the committee.

Jan informed the meeting she had recruited another volunteer who is willing to replace Dennis for the survey work.

6.4 War Memorial

Jan informed the meeting that project is complete. Additionally she will be contacting Toby Newall (Shropshire Star), he has received a number of photographs from an outside source and Jan will make enquiries to see if any of these photographs relate to the war memorial.

6.5 Work with Schools

A very successful session had taken place at Alexander Fleming School. Five local ladies had visited the school to talk to the children and answer their questions about growing up in the area. The session was enjoyed by adults and children alike.

William Reynolds School have contacted the project to ask if help could be available for a project they are doing about the Victorians. Shelagh will follow this up.

6.6 Beeches Project

Gillian reported that 8 people have come forwards to help with the project, an initial meeting has taken place and a plan of action has been drawn up.

It was noted that a recent newspaper article told of plans by the current owners (Extra Care Charitable Trust) to demolish the building and purpose build new premises on the site. It is opportune that the group have taken up this project at this particular time although the meeting agreed that it is regrettable that such an attractive building with an interesting history will be lost.

6.7 Brooke Memorials

Shelagh announced that St Michael's Church's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the memorials has been successful. Further funding has been secured from another source and the work is now able to proceed.

6.8 The Coach House

Following a visit from Chris Tomlin (Heritage Lottery Fund), Kath and Shelagh were disappointed to have to inform the meeting that the advice given was that the Coach House would be unlikely to attract funding. The building is not listed and as the majority of the funding is needed for new build it is unlikely that the proposal would meet the current HLF criteria.

There was general discussion about the listing of buildings. Shelagh felt that Madeley is generally underlisted although she thought that the Coach House was not of sufficient architectural interest or historical value to have

such potential. She undertook to make enquiries about listing in general terms.

6.9 Mosaic Tombstone

No further progress to report, the work is ongoing and the Local Studies Group are awaiting further letters of support.

6.10 Town Trail

No further progress to report, the collection of material is ongoing.

6.11 Madeley Court Hotel

As an acknowledgement for Shelagh's written historical information in the hotel's leaflet, the project has been offered free use of a room and facilities for the AGM.

An archaeological excavation took place of the site in the 1970's and the next Journal of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be devoted to this study.

7. Future Projects

7.1 Heritage Open Days

To take place between 10th and 13th September. There has been a very good response with the following buildings confirmed as being open to visitors at set times: -

Little Hay (Jewellers)

Madeley Court Hotel

The Anstice

St Michael's Church

The Old Vicarage – the property is on the market and may have new owners before the open day. The current owners would like to be part of the scheme but cannot make a commitment on behalf of prospective purchasers.

Subject to his availability, Ben Whittle has agreed to do a talk and slide show and a guided walk, with the help of Barbara and her husband.

7.2 National Archaeology

Will take place on 17th July from 10.00 to 3.00.

Russell Green has been booked and a number of events/exhibits have been confirmed: -

Face Painting

Wroxeter Vineyard (liquor licence applied for)

Ancient cures

Ancient recipes and food tasting

Exhibition of finds by local metal detectors

7.3 Woodside Activity Day

Discussions have taken place with William Reynolds; it is thought that their grounds are more central and easier to locate than Rough Park.

Ideas are still in the early stages but it is hoped to make arrangements in partnership with one of the existing community groups

8. Friends of the Living History Project

There are now 72 members of the Friends and the latest newsletter has been distributed.

The trip to Wroxeter was well supported and enjoyed by all. An additional trip to Boscobel House will take place in June. This trip has been offered to the project by Fay Bailey (previous LHP Manager) English Heritage have set up a civil war encampment and an exhibition as part of their education programme. The house itself is not open although the farm buildings and grounds will be.

9. Information from Committee Members

Jonathon informed the meeting that the HERS Project is now up and running. There has been a good take up of available grants with £50,000 committed in the first month with most of the grants being focussed in central Madeley.

As part of the Spring Clean initiative Jonathon's department has contributed a significant portion to the cleansing of District Centres in Madeley Parish and Ironbridge.

Marilyn reported that the OS maps from 1880, 1900 and 1927 are now at Madeley Library and available to members of the public. Additionally, the Telford Central Library is to purchase a reader printer, this will give easier access to information currently stored on microfiche.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Members agreed that meetings could be held less frequently and that to meet every two months might be more appropriate. The next meeting will therefore take place on Thursday 10th June.

It was further agreed that an ordinary meeting in the summer was not necessary and that the following meeting should take place on 2nd September.

Kath agreed to send a list of new dates out in advance of notice of the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 8.25pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

Position.....