

Madeley Living History Project

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2004, 7.30 at Madeley Library, Russell Square, Madeley

Present: Daphne Roberts, Jonathon Lloyd, Barbara Hardman, Della Bailey, Gwen Groves, Marilyn Higson, Shelagh Lewis, Derek Williams, John Powell, Janet Doody, Gillian Weaver, David Edwards.
Shelagh Lewis, Kath Petty.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Len Roberts, Ben Whittle and Dave Davies.

In the absence of Ben Whittle, Marylin Higson was asked to take the Chair.

2. **Treasurers Report**

Jan Doody reported that there is a balance of £1,020.20 in the account. There has been no movement since the last meeting.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held 4th December 2003**

With the addition of recording of Gillian Weaver as being present, the minutes were agreed as a true record.

3.1 **Matters Arising**

There were none.

4. **Charity Commission**

As a result of the application submitted to apply for charitable status, the Charity Commission had responded and requested additional information as follows.

4.1 **Child Protection Policy**

Having initially taken advice from the Borough Council, Kath Petty had drafted a Child Protection Policy for the meeting's consideration.

Resolved – that the Child Protection Policy be adopted and reviewed in twelve months time.

The committee also felt it may be necessary in the future to adopt a Volunteer Policy.

4.2 **Trading by Charities**

Shelagh Lewis explained to the meeting that if the Living History Project wished to carry out any trading, it must be in line with the organisation's primary purpose. The sale of the Sutton Hill Book would satisfy this requirement but if the project wished to commission key rings or gifts (for example) it would need to set up a separate trading company.

The Inland Revenue has produced a booklet 'Trading by Charities' which is available at the Parish Offices.

5. Amendments to the Constitution – Section G

5.1 To consider changing the number of community representatives from 8 to 9.

Gillian Weaver is no longer able to represent the WEA but wished to remain on the committee as a community member. The committee very much hoped that this would be the case, but having the required number of community representatives did not have a vacancy.

Resolved – that the number of community representatives on the committee be increased from 8 to 9, and to invite Gillian Weaver to take up the vacancy.

5.2 To Remove ‘Members Services – Telford & Wrekin’ as a nominating authority.

The committee had previously been informed that the Members Services of the Borough Council had decided not to nominate a representative to the committee it was therefore: -

Resolved – to remove ‘Members Services’ as a nominating authority and to correctly record other references to Telford and Wrekin as ‘The Borough of Telford and Wrekin’

5.3 To consider another body as a nominating authority.

After discussion it was: -

Resolved – to ask the Madeley Business Association if they would be interested in sending a representative to the committee.

6. Updates on Projects.

6.1 Sutton Hill Book

The publication of the book had been delayed as it had taken longer than expected for the cartoons to be produced. The book is now ready for printing and quotations have been sought from local publishers, which will be presented to MPC Leisure Committee for their approval. The meeting was shown the front cover of the book and all agreed that it was very suitable.

Some of the books will be distributed free of charge but in the main there will be a small charge to help with the publication costs. They will be available locally, but approaches will also be made to Waterstones, WH Smiths and other larger central retailers.

6.2 The Nine Men

Shelagh was pleased to report that, in spite of initial fears, there has been no vandalism to the grave. The information leaflet is now complete and ready for printing.

6.3 Graveyard Survey

Progress with the survey has been held up recently because of the cold weather. However, the Borough Council Engineers have completed a survey of the graves and four teams of volunteers are completing the work, using the techniques recommended by the Council for British Archaeology.

The work should be completed by the summer and Sue Laflin has offered to put the database on computer. Derek Williams also offered to put the information on the database for Primary Schools.

It is also intended to produce a 'graveyard trail' which will be available to schools, family historians and the general public.

6.4 War Memorial

Jan Doody reported that the research on the war memorial has now finished. Information can still be added but she is not actively seeking to add to the work. Once all the information has been compiled it will be available as a resource to schools, local historians and the general public.

6.5 Eli Peate

Eli Peate was a local man who emigrated to Australia at the turn of the century. Francis Jones had come across a box of memorabilia at a sale, and added to this at a further sale. The information has been catalogued by local volunteers Joan Beard and Dennis Jones and is a fascinating documentary of one man's life. The work will not be of general interest, and therefore there are no plans to publish or exhibit it, but it is now preserved and retained for future use.

The immediate family of Eli Peate, who no longer live in the area, have been contacted. They are delighted with the discovery of this information and will be visiting the library with their children to see the work.

Marilyn Higson suggested that the Family History Society would be very interested in an article for their magazine.

6.6 Work with Schools

A lot of work has been carried out with Haughton School. Being a special Needs School they are not as restricted by the National Curriculum and have carried out studies of Jubilee House and enjoyed a trip to Wroxeter. Alexander Fleming have made enquiries about future work with the LHP but other schools have not contacted Shelagh after her initial letter of introduction.

6.7 Beeches Project

Gillian Weaver has worked for the WEA with an Active Retirement Group, who have expressed an interest in researching the history of the Beeches Hospital – now known as Lincoln Grange and previously the workhouse. Work has not yet started and although just outside the boundary of Madeley Parish Council, Shelagh offered her assistance.

6.8 Brooke Memorials

Revd. Henry Morris has applied for Heritage Lottery Funding to restore the Brooke Memorials at St Michael's Church. The application had been acknowledged with a request for further information, Shelagh had assisted with some suggestions which were commended by the HLF. The outcome of the application is awaited.

6.9 The Coach House

The Coach House is situated in the car park of Jubilee House and is in the ownership of Madeley Parish Council. The Parish intends to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to restore and extend the building. If successful it will be an office and storage base for the Living History project with rooms for community use.

6.10 Mosaic Tombstone

Barbara Hardman informed the meeting that a funding application to restore the headstone is to be made and that the Chair of the Local Studies Group had written to a variety of organisations to ask for letters of support.

The group has now agreed that, as the problems of vandalism at St Michael's have abated that the best place for the mosaic is its original position above the grave.

6.11 Town Trail

Shelagh reported that she is slowly collecting information for the production of the Town trail.

6.12 Madeley Court Hotel

The hotel has been taken over by another chain who are keen to promote individuality and local usage. They are planning to host a production of A Midsummer Nights Dream and a concert by Shifnal Choral Society in the summer. They are also producing a publicity booklet and have asked Shelagh to write the introduction about the history of the building. Although currently called 'The Clarion' there are also plans to change the name back to the original 'Madeley Court'.

7. Future Projects

7.1 Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days (HODS) is a national scheme that allows the public access to buildings of historical importance that are not normally open. A number of buildings in the area have been identified and volunteers are making contact with their owners. The Local Studies Group will also lead a walk around the town.

Jonathon Lloyd pointed out that this is also an excellent opportunity to publicise the World Heritage Site. Very few buildings in Telford have been part of this scheme to date.

7.2 National Archaeology Day

A national event that will take place in Madeley on Saturday 17th July at Russell Green. A variety of activities are planned, such as wattle and daub demonstrations, ancient food tasting, ancient medicine, the Greenwood Trust and Wroxeter Vineyard.

John Powell said that there will also be events taking place at Blists Hill Museum and that there might be some opportunity to link the two together.

Marilyn Higson also suggested a number of ways in which the library could also be involved.

7.3 Woodside Family Activity Day

A joint event is planned to take place in the summer, in partnership with the Green Spaces Project. This is still in its early stages of development; it is hoped that, amongst other events, there will be an archaeological dig in Rough Park.

8. Newsletter

The newsletter is at the printers and will shortly be distributed.

There are now 70 members of the Friends, and the next trip out will be a visit to Wroxeter and to the Vineyard.

9. Information from Committee Members

Derek Williams informed the group that the Care Village at Lincoln Hill is currently building three more houses, and he asked the group if they could suggest names for the buildings. Della Bailey pointed out that the land that is being built on used to be the gardens and an orchard serving the Beeches Hospital.

Jonathon Lloyd informed the meeting that Stella Jameson has been appointed as the HERS (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme) Officer. She can be contacted on 202537 and although based at Civic Offices, has temporary office accommodation in Madeley for some of the week. Kath Petty said that if the refurbishment of the Coach House goes ahead it is planned to have provision for some private rented office space. This would be ideal for the HERS Officer.

Other members of the committee welcomed the appointment and looked forward to seeing some positive changes in the High Street. Of particular concern is the exterior of Lumley Hall and the unsightly appearance of the railings.

Barbara Hardman informed the meeting that the Local Studies Group will be moving to Fletcher Memorial.

Marilyn Higson informed the meeting that she will shortly be moving to Telford Library. The libraries service will still have a representative on the committee, she hopes to remain but if this is not possible another appointment will be made.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Madeley Living History Project Management Committee will take place on Thursday April 15th, 7.30 at Madeley Library.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm

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

Position.....