

Madeley Living History Project
Minutes of Management Committee 18th February 2013, 6.00pm
Jubilee House

Present: Jonathan Lloyd (JL) (in the Chair), Cllr. Sue Taylor (ST), Janet Doody (JD), Grant Foden (GF), Paul Belford (PB), Sandy Pledger (SP), Veronica Jubb (CJ)

In Attendance: Andy Rose (AR)

Apologies: Cllr. Gill Green (GG), Kath Petty (KP), John Powell (JP)

For new members, AR quickly explained the objects of the LHP constitution and the powers of the Management Committee. AR then introduced the next item pending the election of a new chair.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 26th November 2012:

Two minor changes were made to the draft minutes. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

1i: Matters Arising
Resolved

It was agreed that they could be forwarded to the Charity Commission, together with a copy of the revised constitution.

2. Appointment of Chairman:

Resolved

JL was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Living History Project for 2013-2014.

3. Treasurer's Report:

JD reported that the balance at bank as of 31st January 2013 was £3,261.97. A contribution to a miner's memorial in the Town Park is currently on hold. Since the AGM, there had been expenditure on the **Madeley Court Hotel leaflet** and the room hire for the AGM.

4. Update on LHP Projects:

3i: New publications:

Since the AGM, the *Madeley Town trail* leaflet has been published. 13 commemorative blue plaques have also been erected on notable buildings around Madeley. The location of both the blue plaques and the earlier green plaques erected by TDC in the 1970's are all identified in the leaflet. All this work was funded by a grant from Telford & Wrekin Council.

A Madeley history board is also due to be erected in the centre as part of a wider signage project.

3ii: New projects:

AR's role during 2012 has focussed on helping local property owners secure funding to refurbish their historic buildings.

A key project is working with Madeley music project to refurbish part of Lumley Hall. A number of issues are being sorted out leading up to a bid for Lottery funding. This includes sorting out leases for the tenants so they have a formal stake in the building.

A number of meetings have been held with potential funders to see if grant could be secured to refurbish the Anstice club. To date, they have all be unsuccessful, primarily because it is difficult for the club to meet funders'

requirements. A meeting is to be arranged between the club and Town Councillors to explore possible funding options.

The Methodist church and Safe-space have been working together to try to build a residential Christian community to serve Madeley in the Fletcher chapel buildings. There is a small group (3 Methodists/ 2 Safe space) producing a vision for the community. They were due to present their ideas to the Methodist church in January. AR will be involved in supporting the group if it decides to proceed.

3iii: AOB:

AR had already circulated details of the event on the 28th September to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Edith Pargeter. The event is being organised by the Wrekin Local Studies Forum. It will be held in Dawley and involve a day of talks and walks. The Group would welcome any photos or mementoes of Edith that could be included in a display. It was also suggested that contact could be made with Edith's housekeeper who still lives in the area.

AR also made a plea for any information or photos about Gil Marks which is required for a plaque in the Marks room.

5. Future of Madeley History Group:

For the benefit of new members, JL recapped on the history of the Living History Group and the valuable role played by Madeley History Group.

Madeley History Group meets on a Tuesday morning and has around 20 active members. The group has been very pro-active in researching and collating leaflets and pamphlets and undertaking small scale restoration projects. The former LHP Manager provided considerable support for the group.

The group still wants to play an active role within the LHP. It is working on further leaflets and has arranged a photographic exhibition on the 27th April. However, without the support of the former LHP manager, members of the Group are now being expected to take on board much more work, including collating the research done by other members and picking up family history queries. At the same time as taking on board these extra responsibilities, the Group are also expected to become financially self sufficient, covering their own expenses such as printing & materials, as well as room hire.

The Management Committee was of the view that the Madeley History Group is a key element of the wider Living History Project and that its activities contribute to enhancing the quality of life of Madeley's residents. It was agreed that, if Madeley Town Council as a key player in the Living History Group wants the Madeley History Group to continue the valuable role it has played for the local community, greater consideration should have been given to how the Group can be supported .

ST suggested that the issue needs to be properly considered by Town Council members. She explained that other groups do pay for room hire but these groups do also receive grants from the Town Council to subsidise their costs. She suggested that a report is prepared to go to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the 22nd April.

It was suggested that only email requests would be forwarded to the Group from anyone researching their family history. No phone numbers should be given out.

In the meantime, it is suggested that any legitimate costs being incurred by Group Members will be met from the LHP account. This will include any materials used for printing documents or preparing exhibitions/displays, as well as the room hire (n.b. the Town Council have subsequently agreed to waive the room fee until it is considered by their members)

Resolved

That the LHP Management Committee endorses the valuable role played by the Madeley History Group and confirms that it wants the Group to continue as part of the Living History Project.

That the LHP Management Committee will make representations to the Town Council, on behalf of the Madeley History Group.

That the LHP Management Committee will reimburse any legitimate costs incurred by Group members from the LHP account, until the financial position is considered by the Town Council. This will be reviewed after the response from the Town Council is received.

6. AOB

AR mentioned that there had been discussion with Jim Birtwhistle, owner of the All Nations pub, who wanted to repair his pub car park and retaining wall. AR was aware of the historical importance of the area surrounding the pub, including Lee Dingle bridge and Bagguleys wind (both owned by the Borough Council). He wondered if a proper archaeological assessment had ever been done of the area. It looked to have potential for a project to properly restore and interpret the structures. PB would check if he had copies of any archaeological studies carried out by IGMT.

PB also mentioned that old railway track & points had been removed from a pit mound next to Blists Hill. It was an isolated spot and PB was surprised if thieves would be aware of its location. It would be a significant excavation job to remove the track. AR will report back to colleagues at the Town Council to see if anyone knows what has happened.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22nd May at Jubilee House 5.45 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.