



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to D.F. Hayward MBE, The Secretary, Organising Committee, CLASP.
29, Winston Close, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3JX

Organising Committee

Minutes of Meeting

12th November 2007

1. Attendance. Jeremy Cooper (Co-opted), Alan Dent (Individual Members Representative), Angela Evans (Treasurer - Trustee), David Hayward (Co-opted)-Secretary Organising Committee), Brian Ives (Norton Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary - Weedon Bec History Society), Jennifer Smith (Harpole Heritage Group), Stephen Young (Archaeological Director - Trustee)

2. Apologies: Georgina Boreham, Alan Kent, Alan Shaw

3. Chairs Welcome

3.1. New Member

The Chair welcomed Alan Dent to the Committee as the new Individual Members Representative.

3.2. Guest

The Chair also welcomed Mr. Tony Johns to the meeting as Editor of the CLASP newsletter.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting - 3rd December 2007

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Chair (4.1)

The Secretary reported that he had spoken to Mr Kerrou and it appears that he now has a work commitment that will make him unavailable to assume this position on the Committee. The Acting Chair agreed to remain in that position.

5.2 Roman Research Trust (4.3)

The Chair reported that a link to their site had been incorporated onto our web site. (*Secretary's note: Since the meeting it has been noted that their site is currently 'down', possibly undergoing a major refurbishment.*)

5.3 Daventry History Group Representation (5.1)

The Secretary reported that he had been notified that this group hoped to notify a representative at their November meeting.

5.4 Flore Heritage Society (3.4)

Mr Culling reported that he would be the representative of the Flore group in addition to that of the Whitehall Project.

5.5 Spratton History Day (13)

Mrs Smith reported that whilst this had been a very successful day in its own right there had been only minimal interest in CLASP activities, about six flyers only be taken.

5.6 Milton Keynes Archaeology Day (14)

The arrangements for this were all in hand, It was being organised by Rick Whyte with assistance from the Acting Chair and Barbara Evans-Rees. It had been decided that no artefacts would be displayed.

5.7 Internal Communications (17.3)

The Acting Chair reported that he had purchased a mobile phone to be utilised as a focal point to hear updated messages regarding CLASP fieldwork activities. The number has been circulated by way of membership cards. The phone can only be used to receive calls to the recorded message.

6. Newsletter

Following a lengthy discussion including the Editor, Tony Johns, an action plan for the next and subsequent editions of the newsletter was **agreed**. Future distribution would be for members with email by way of download from the CLASP web site unless they had specifically opted out of this system when a hard copy would be provided. All other members would be sent a hard copy by post. Additional copies would be forwarded to local libraries and Northamptonshire Record Office. The closing date for material for the next edition would be 13th January 2008.

7. WNDC

The Secretary and Archaeological Director reported on their recent meetings with WNDC. They stated that the relationship was continuing on a positive basis. CLASP was being asked to provide WNDC with our view as a community group on the archaeological potential of the area proposed for development. WNDC has provided us with copies of the three major planning applications that we are currently examining in some detail. Having drawn in our knowledge of the archaeology on the area we will then respond to them at our next

meeting on 23rd November. The Secretary stated that he had broached the subject of expenses with them and intended to confirm this with them at the next meeting. The Treasurer confirmed that this was essential, as CLASP could not afford to underwrite this work. The Acting Chair stated it was necessary to appraise the Trustees of this ongoing work. This was agreed, they would be provided with a paper at their next meeting. Exploratory mention was made of the question of a repository. As mentioned previously there was a concept of a facility being provided in the proposed Daventry 'Learning Zone'. This is still very embryonic but looks hopeful. WNDC will explore with the University of Northampton before the next meeting possible areas of co-operation to involve CLASP. *(Secretary's note: Another positive meeting took place on the 23rd November. An initial report on our work into our views on the Churchfields development was made and apparently well received. WNDC have employed an independent archaeologist to give a view on the applications but wish us to work with him to provide our view. This work we have to be completed within the next month. A requirement has been placed in the planning consent for the WMC site for an archaeological watching brief and excavation as necessary. WNDC have further invited us to undertake a similar exercise with regard to applications received for their Towcester development area. The initial application for 3000 houses has just been received and we will commence work in early 2008. The question of expenses was discussed and they consider that they should be able to meet our reasonable expenses, the initial major item being for the purchase of digital OS maps with the associated licenses for the areas under study. WNDC also made the point that they would see a longer-term involvement for CLASP with the development of community involvement work. A further meeting is to take place early in 2008. A full report will be given to the next Committee meeting.)*

Archaeological Director

Secretary

Trustees

8. AGM

8.1 2007

The Committee considered that this was a successful event although the venue was rather cramped. The Speaker was well received and updated us on the recent Bury Mount excavation. The Treasurer stated that he had still not been invoiced for the use of the Riverside premises, the Secretary stated that they had been provided with the Treasurers details.

8.2 2008

The Secretary stated that following his initial consultation he had booked the Saxon Suite at Daventry Leisure centre for the 2008 AGM on the 16th September. He had booked it from 19.00hrs to 21.30hrs at a cost of £75.00 The Committee agreed with this except to extend the hours to 22.00hrs. This cost will therefore be £90.00. It was further agreed that we would not have a licensed bar but would have provided tea and coffee at £1 per head, the Secretary to resolve details with the Leisure Centre and report back in due course. The question of either a greater emphasis being placed on voluntary donations or a fixed entry charge was made; this would be finalised at a future meeting. Following suggestions from the Acting Chair it was agreed that the meeting should take the format of a panel debate with members from WNDC, possibly English Heritage and our Archaeological Director. The latter would also give a technical update to the meeting on all recent archaeological developments in the area.

Secretary
Trustees

9. Repository

Note comments in para 7 above.

10. Technical Work in Progress

10.1 Bannaventa

The Archaeological Director reported that all the coins and brooches from the recent work at this location were currently being examined by Dr. Mark Curtois. The remainder of the geophysics on the area to the east of Watling Street would hopefully be done in early 2008.

10.2 Easton Neston and Tiffield

The work here would hopefully commence in early 2008. The Archaeological Director needed to liase with Ms Boreham on the timing of the Easton Neston site.

Archaeological Director
Ms. G. Boreham

10.3 Weedon

It was agreed that we would endeavour to complete the work at the Old Rectory in Weedon over a weekend in February 2008. The Archaeological Director and Mrs Johns will liase with the property owners over this.

Archaeological Director
Mrs J. Johns

10.4 Harpole

The Archaeological Director reported that the recent metal detecting survey at Barn Close had revealed 24 coins and 16 miscellaneous metallic items. The recent geophysics has revealed the east wing of the villa A similar metal detecting exercise is to take place at The Mere on 13th November. The fieldwalking exercise at Flaxlands revealed up to 500 pottery sherds, these have been cleaned but still requiring processing. Mrs Smith reported that she had given a successful talk at Harpole School. The school was intending to hold an educational 'dig' for the pupils on the 15th November.

11. Treasurers Matters

11.1 Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that total funds at present were £8284.78. The AGM raffle raised £85 and refreshment donations £15.90. One T-shirt was sold at £8.

11.2 Expenditure Bids

Purchase of mobile phone - Mr J. Cooper - £29.99

Computer hard drive and associated software - Mr J. Cooper - £146.49

RSPB Donation re screen for AGM - £10

Repository keys - £6.00

Trustees

12. English Heritage - Broadening Access

To next meeting

13. Data Format

Following discussions at the last meeting the Acting Chair reported that we have no problems with compatibility of data stored electronically by CLASP. The Archaeological Director reported that the only programme that may present problems is ArchEd used for the Harris Matrices.

14. Fieldwork Checklists

Mrs Smith circulated proposed lists that had been suggested for various fieldwork activities. The Acting Chair will enter these on the website.

Acting Chair

15. The Marsh Archaeology Award for Community Archaeology

The Secretary circulated details of the subject Award that is organised by the CBA. It was **agreed** that CLASP should submit an entry with the report on Part 1 of the Local People- Local Past project.

Secretary
Archaeological Director

16. Heritage Lottery Fund - Status

The Secretary queried the position with the Countryside Agency/ Heritage Lottery Fund and Nationwide Building Society consequent to recent organisational change. The Acting Chair undertook to investigate and amend the website and documentation accordingly.

Acting Chair

17. Membership Numbers

As a result of a query from the Secretary the Membership Secretary stated that we currently had 59 members that included 6 new persons. Mr Dent undertook to assist the Membership Secretary in 'chasing up' those persons who had not renewed this year. The Secretary then stated that as numbers had dropped below eighty we were only entitled to one Individual Members representative on this Committee. He therefore stated that he would stand down from that position forthwith. The Committee accepted this resignation; he was then unanimously co-opted to the Committee as Secretary.

18. Channel 4 TV Awards

The Secretary queried as to the arrangements for the next edition of these Awards. The Acting Chair undertook to investigate with the CBA and Channel 4 websites, the Secretary would make enquiries with Mike Rumbold.

Acting Chair
Secretary

19. Metal Detecting Standards

Ongoing

20. Meeting Programme for 2008

Meeting dates for 2008 were **agreed** as follows: -

11/02; 21/04; 09/06; 08/07; 01/09/ 10/11

All meetings will be held at The Baptist Chapel Rooms, The Green, Nether Heyford commencing at 15.30hrs except for the meeting on 08/07 that will be at the Whitehall Villa excavation site commencing at 17.00hrs. The AGM will be on 16/11/08 at 19.00hrs at The Saxon Suite, Daventry Leisure Centre.

21. Any Other Business

21.1 Orange Award for Community Archaeology

The Acting Chair reported that an application had been submitted but as yet he had not heard of any results.

21.2 Whitehall Excavation - 2008

The Archaeological Director mentioned that the provisional dates for the 2008 Whitehall excavation would be the last two weeks in June and first two in July.

J. Cooper - Acting Chair

D. Hayward -Secretary