



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

9th September 2008

Baptist Church Rooms

Nether Heyford

1. Attendance

Sue Brown (Daventry Local History Group), Jeremy Cooper (Co-opted), Brian Culling (Flore Heritage Society and Whitehall Villa Project), Alan Dent (Individual Members Representative), Angela Evans (Treasurer - Trustee), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary), Jennifer Smith (Harpole Heritage Group), Stephen Young (Archaeological Director - Trustee)

These minutes prepared by Acting Chair.

2. Apologies

Georgina Boreham (Towcester District History Society), , David Hayward (Co-opted)-Secretary Organising Committee), Brian Ives (Norton Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team), Alan Kent (Bugbrooke History Society).

NOTED that The Secretary had provided written reports on several items.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting - 8th July 2008

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Digitised maps (4): NOTED that the Secretary is still having problem with installing the maps and with MapInfo. He will approach the Archaeological Director for advice when he returns.

ACTION: SECRETARY

4.2 CBA Education Officer visit (12): NOTED that Richard Lee has had to cancel his visit to the Harpole excavation. A visit to a Tuesday afternoon workshop at Whitehall is being pursued as an alternative.

ACTION: SECRETARY

4.3 Northants County Council (14.1):

NOTED that councillor's discretionary grants will not be available next year because of the elections. Groups are encouraged to apply for them while they are available. Whitehall has been awarded £1700 to be spent on carbon dating and geomagnetic survey.

5. WNDC - Danetre Village Planning Appeal

NOTED that as a result of our submission to this Appeal and comments from others the developers have commissioned an additional extensive geophysical survey report to cover wide tracts of the site. The consultants have contacted the Secretary, have supplied a copy of the report and would like to discuss it with us once we have analysed it. Once the Secretary has read it he will pass it together with his comments to the Archaeological Director for his comments. A discussion with the consultants will then be arranged. The Committee welcomed this development as evidence of CLASP's increasing influence.

ACTION: SECRETARY, ARCH. DIRECTOR

NOTED that planning applications for Middlemore and Churchfields are also going to appeal and that the Secretary will follow these up when he returns.

ACTION: SECRETARY

6. Technical Work in Progress

6.1 Weedon - Old Rectory:

NOTED that the Archaeological Director hopes to have an excavation in November.

ACTION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIRECTOR

6.2 Harple - Barn Close:

NOTED that the excavation will proceed as planned 2nd to 4th September. The Archaeological Director will lead a team of some 12 diggers (not all present at the same time) in digging a trial trench across one wing of the villa.

NOTED that approx £200 will be paid for hire of digger and driver.

6.3 Bannaventa:

NOTED that the Archaeological Director is negotiating for further geophysics and fieldwork.

ACTION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIRECTOR

6.4 Duston:

NOTED that the Secretary has spoken to Gary Arthurs regarding his proposals for this site and will make a site visit later in September. However as a result of his initial conversation and discussions with Brian Ives (NNPAST) the Secretary does have some serious concerns in a number of areas. The Archaeological Director explained that any CLASP participation in this dig would have to be carefully organised to ensure that the safety issues of a deep dig are duly addressed.

6.5 Braunston

NOTED and AGREED the Secretary's view that CLASP should keep remain in touch with this possibility in the hope that relationships between the various parties and interests concerned become clearer and that CLASP involvement might become feasible. Meanwhile there is no evidence of building works beginning on the site.

ACTION: ALAN DENT, SECRETARY

7. AGM

7.1 Panel membership

NOTED that English Heritage is now providing a second speaker, Ann Plackett their Regional Planner. Paul Quinn is trying to get the Chair of the WNDC Board to attend: the Secretary is waiting for an update from him. The names of these speakers will not be on the initial publicity but can perhaps be built into the second phase press release, especially local radio etc.

7.2 Publicity

NOTED that the posters have been distributed as widely as possible. The Secretary has had no request for hard copies from members on email. Press releases have gone out, these will be followed by a second release nearer the date of the meeting for local radio etc.

ACTION: SECRETARY

7.3 Small finds table

NOTED that there will be none this year as there is no Small Finds Officer for Northamptonshire, the post being vacant.

7.4 Pre-AGM Exhibition

NOTED that this has been arranged with the Leisure Centre and can be set up about ten days before the meeting, free of charge. Angela & Colin Evans have agreed to set this display up and liaise with Centre staff. The display boards will need to be available.

7.5 Use of CLASP display by NNPAST

AGREED that NNPAST may, if they wish, take charge of the display boards at the end of the AGM so they may use them at their event in Norton on 27th September.

7.6 Other displays at AGM

AGREED that all CLASP groups are welcome to have a display at the CLASP AGM. Mrs Smith will ensure that the Harpole and Whitehall displays are made available.

ACTION: MRS SMITH

7.7 AGM personnel

NOTED that Mrs Smith has a list of helpers with specific tasks and that any further offers of help will be welcomed. The Treasurer will approach Colin Evans to see if he would be willing to take charge of the collection bucket.

ACTION: TREASURER

8. Treasurers Report

NOTED that there is a balance of £6,651 in the CLASP account. The origins of these unspent funds are as follows:

Harpole Heritage:	£1,054
Countryside Agency:	£2,374
Roman Research Trust:	£2,500
Ordinary account:	£ 709

(all numbers rounded)

The Treasurer was thanked for her report.

9. Events for CLASP participation

AGREED that the following events would be good opportunities for publicising CLASP:

- Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society - Local History Network Annual Conference and Fair, 4th October, Milton Keynes. NOTED that nobody has agreed to organise CLASP presence yet. Appeal for volunteer coordinator to be made on website (contact: Acting Chair).

ACTION: WEBMASTER

- Milton Keynes Archaeology Day, 5th November, Milton Keynes. Rick Whyte has agreed to coordinate CLASP participation. Acting Chair to contact Rick Whyte.

ACTION: ACTING CHAIR

- NNPAST Display, 27th September, Norton: Alan Dent volunteered to coordinate CLASP participation.

ACTION: ALAN DENT

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AGREED that Acting Chair (aka Webmaster) will list these events on the CLASP website and ask members who can help at these events to contact the coordinators.

ACTION: WEBMASTER

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Membership and insurance

NOTED that all participants in CLASP excavations, fieldwork etc... must be CLASP members so that they are covered by the CLASP insurance. Associate members (members of organisations participating in CLASP) are covered by CLASP insurance. NOTED for clarification, that Whitehall has its own insurance to cover anyone working on that site.

(POST MEETING OBSERVATION by Acting Chair - I am pretty sure we established that CLASP insurance covers anyone working on a CLASP project regardless of whether they are CLASP members: I remember we realised that "join so you are insured and can work with us" is a false claim! We need to confirm all this again - perhaps we should ask the Trustees for clarification).

10.2 Membership renewal

AGREED that membership renewal reminders should be sent out by email or post to those who have not renewed by the end of September.

AGREED that the February edition of the newsletter will not be sent to anyone who has not renewed by the time of its publication: this will effect only printed copies sent by post. Access to the on-line newsletter will be by the new (post-AGM) password which will be notified only to people who join or renew their membership.

ACTION: MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

AGREED that the Webmaster will add a renewal reminder to the website. (There always been a downloadable membership form on the website).

ACTION: WEBMASTER

Next Meeting: - 10th November 2008, 15.30 hrs, Nether Heyford Baptist Church Rooms.

J. Cooper - Chair

D. Hayward - Secretary July 2008