



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to D.F. Hayward MBE, The Secretary, Organising Committee, CLASP,
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Minutes

Organising Committee Meeting

Baptist Church Rooms

The Green, Nether Heyford

9th November 2009

1. Attendance:

Georgina Boreham (Towcester District History Society), Sue Brown Daventry Local History Group), Jeremy Cooper (Chair- Co-opted), Brian Culling (Flore Heritage Society and Whitehall Villa Project), David Hayward (Co-opted-Secretary Organising Committee), The Rev'd Francis Rodriguez (Norton Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team), Julia Johns (Weedon Bec History Society), Alan Kent (Bugbrooke History Society), Di Burgoyne (Blisworth Heritage Society), Stephen Young (Archaeological Director - Trustee), Derek Batten (Friends of Alderton Monument)

2. Apologies,

Jennifer Smith (Harpole Heritage Group), Angela Evans (Treasurer - Trustee), Sarah Sykes (Blisworth Heritage Society)

3 Welcome to New Members:

The Chair welcomed The Rev'd Francis Rodriguez as the new member for NNPAST in place of Brian Ives who had resigned from the Committee on grounds of ill health. Mr Ives was thanked for his services to the Committee. The Chair also welcomed Di Burgoyne as a second representative for Blisworth Heritage Society.

4. Minutes of Meeting: 7th September 2009 - These were accepted as a true record.

5. Matters Arising:

5.1 Friends of Alderton Monument (FOAM) (5)

5.1.1 Application to Join

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Mr D Batten formally requesting that FOAM became a member group of CLASP. This application was unanimously accepted by the Committee and Mr Batten was formally welcomed by the Chair. The Secretary also thanked Mr Batten for his donation on behalf of FOAM.

5.1.2 Open Meeting

Mr Batten reminded members about the Open Meeting that his group were holding at Paulerspury Village Hall on the 14th November at 20.00hrs. This meeting would discuss this years excavation together with plans for next year. Next years excavation would take place during the last two weeks in July and the first week of August.

5.2 Eydon (11)

The Secretary reported that he had heard nothing further from Eydon nor does it appear that they attended the Open Meeting.

5.3 CSCS Certificates (12)

The Secretary reported that he had passed our concerns regarding the need for the CBA to negotiate a form of national agreement with the company that administers these certificates for the voluntary sector in archaeology. He had received a response from Dr Dan Hull at the CBA who agreed that there was a need for this and undertook to start looking at the problem.

5.4 Daventry Museum (5.4)

It was reported by the Secretary that he had contacted the Friends of Daventry Museum but had received no reply to date. Ms. Brown undertook to investigate the situation with the Museum

S. Brown

6. Technical Matters

6.1 Weedon

Nothing to report on the arrangements for the further investigations need here.

J. Johns

Archaeological Director

A Clark

6.2 Daventry

Nothing to report

6.3 Bannaventa

The Archaeological Director reported that he had contacted the new tenant farmer, his response had been positive to date. Rev'd Francis Rodriguez stated that NNPAST had only carried out relatively little surveying in Bannaventa recently but they do hope to be able to progress in the Westgate area of Shawnee Field shortly. He also stated that two coins, including a gold had recently been found in fields adjacent to Bannaventa.

6.4 Brington

The Archaeological Director stated that he still had to arrange a meeting with Lord Spencer to discuss further work in this area.

Archaeological Director

6.5 Harpole

In the absence of Mrs Smith there was nothing to report other than an article that had appeared in the Chronicle and Echo outlining some of the history of

Harpole.

6.6 Flore

Nothing to report other than that the programme of evening meetings would progress as usual during the winter and details were available from Mr. Culling.

6.7 Bugbrooke

Mr Kent reported that there are still no archaeological investigations to report. His group are holding their normal winter programme of talks, the one on the 10th February 2010 will be on the subject of Drove Roads in Northamptonshire.

6.8 Whitehall

It was reported that the Tuesday afternoon working sessions had started again; currently the emphasis was on sorting the bone collection now that it has been returned from Southampton University. Nothing further has been heard regarding the proposed programme being planned by Shine TV on investigating the skeletons.

6.9 Tiffield

The Archaeological Director still has to arrange further work at this location.

Archaeological Director

6.10 Towcester

The archaeological investigations at the Towcester site were now being undertaken by Archaeological Solutions and not Birmingham University as previously reported. The Aldi supermarket application at the Woolgrowers site has been refused, on archaeological and design grounds, although an appeal was anticipated. A scoping report is to now be undertaken at the Moat Lane site. Ms Boreham also circulated details of an analysis of the finds from Easton Neston, Burcote Wood and Mill Lane Stoke Bruerne. A comparison of the RB building material from the Stoke Bruerne and Easton Neston sites has provided evidence of similarity in fabrics between the two. Fifteen TDLH members have commenced a preliminary sort of the pottery from Easton Neston. It was anticipated that there would be a talk on the pottery in due course that would involve CLASP. The Towcester museum is still not open because of funding issues.

6.11 NNPAST

Members have made their coin collections available if required. Norton Village now has its own website; the NNPAST Chair is photographing their finds for the website. Three members of the society are willing to provide talks to local societies. It was also reported that they were considering the question of insurance of finds located and held by NNPAST. It was requested that committee members remind their membership of the NNPAST meeting to be held at Norton Village Hall on the 29th January 2010 when Chris Moorhead from the British Museum will speak on Roman coins

6.12 Blisworth

A meeting programme for the oncoming winter had now been arranged and was

available if required. The Sun Mon and Stars options paper had been submitted but it was still awaiting resolution by SNC. The Rev'd Rodriguez mentioned a paddox near a railway bridge that he had been approached to investigate, further details of this will be reported on in due course.

6.13 Alderton

Mr Batten reported that he now had available the report into this summers excavation at Alderton, he would make this available electronically free but there would be a small charge for hard copies. Please approach him directly. Next years excavation would be held during the last two weeks in July and first in August.

7. Outside Talks

The Archaeological Director reported that he had recently provided a talk to the Middle Nene Archaeological Society at Oundle.

8. Financial Matters

The Secretary reported on behalf of the Treasurer that the Bank Account balance was as follows: -

Harpole £1221.24

Countryside Agency £2014.44

Roman Research Trust £2500

Non Committed £1110.18

Total £6845.86

The Membership Secretary reported that the current total of Individual Members was sixty-six.

9. Projects and Research

9.1 The Great Way

The Secretary outlined details of research he was currently carrying in conjunction with Peter Christopher from the Feldon Community Archaeological Group in SE Warwickshire and Tony Marsh from Blisworth into a cross country route across this area. It appears that the route, named as the Great Way in an Anglo Saxon Charter and also identified, for part of its route in the same charter as an ancient Salt Way. He stated that this work would take some months but initially appeared to be positive and instructive to the wider CLASP work.

9.2 Boudicca - Death and Burial at Whittlebury

The Secretary also updated the Committee on some information he recently discovered regarding the possible death and burial of Boudicca at Whittlebury. Details of the documents were circulated to the Committee. Mr Batten undertook to speak to Martin Marix Evans as he has researched the question of Paulerspury being the site of Boudicca's final battle.

Mr D Batten

10. AGM & Open Meeting

10.1 2009

There was a general feeling that this was a successful, positive meeting. The

Archaeological Director took the view that it had 'opened the eyes' of English Heritage on the work being undertaken by CLASP and would therefore have a long term positive effect.

10.2 2010

It was **agreed** that the 2010 meetings would be on the 15th September at Paulerspury village hall, subject to a confirmatory visit by the Archaeological Director and Secretary with Mr Batten. After a discussion it was **agreed** that the theme should centre on the question of Funding Problems in Community Archaeology and Heritage Work. It was considered that it might be appropriate to ask Francis Pryor to speak considering the problems he is currently having at Flag Fen. The Secretary would pursue this.

**Archaeological Director
Secretary
Mr D Batten**

11. Archive

The Secretary reported that he had received two responses to date to his letter to local authorities inviting them to participate in a partnership archive for the area. The responses had not been very positive but he undertook to pursue the outstanding councils for their views.

Secretary

12. Milton Keynes Archaeology Day 14/11/09

Members were reminded of this this event; arrangements were in hand for the CLASP and Whitehall display boards to be made available. Again the appreciation of the Committee for the efforts of Rik Whyte with organising the CLASP input at this event were noted and would be passed to him.

13. WNJPU Submission

The Secretary reported that CLASP had made a submission to the recent consultation exercise on the WNJPU Emergent Core Strategy document. This was available for all to see on the CLASP website.

14. PPS 15 & Associated Guidance - Consultation Submissions

The Secretary reported that CLASP submissions to the recent consultations on the new DCMS PPS 15 and the associated guidance produced by English Heritage were also available on the website.

15. Health & Safety

In the absence of Mr Clark there was no update on this subject.

16. Minute Secretary

The Secretary made an appeal to members to seek a person to fill the role of Minute Secretary to this Committee. The role would purely involve taking the notes of the meeting and preparing the minutes afterwards. This would then release time for him to pursue research and planning matters. He suggested that members may like to take this appeal back to their groups to establish whether there were any volunteers available.

17. Flyers

The Secretary reported that there was a need for the printing of an updated flyer as stocks of the existing one were nearly exhausted. The Chair undertook to do the updating work over the forthcoming months and asked for any ideas re amendments to be passed to him directly.

18. Meeting Dates for 2010

These were agreed as follows: -

15th February; 12th April; 5th July; 6th September; 15th November.

All meetings will be held at 15.30hrs on the Baptist Church Rooms, The Green, Nether Heyford apart from the 5th July when it will commence at 17.15hrs at Whitehall Farm Villa Site, Weedon Road, Nether Heyford. A tour of the site will be arranged for members prior to the meeting at 16.45hrs.

19. Any Other Business

19.1 Newsletter

The closing date for submissions is the 21st February 2010. The editor would welcome submissions from others than the regular officers of CLASP, these could either be from societies or individual members providing an insight to their activities and interests. Please make these direct to the editor at tony@tonyjohs.co.uk

November 2009

Chair: Jeremy Cooper

Secretary: Dave Hayward