



Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project

Minutes of the Clasp Organising Committee 24th April 2017.

1. Attendance: R. Close [Chair and Barby Hill Project], J. Aveling [Secretary and Blisworth Heritage Society], A. Evans [Trustee and Treasurer], N. Garnett [Whitehall Roman Villa Project], G. Hatton [Trustee and Barby Hill Project], D. Hayward [Chairman and Trustee], J. Johns [Membership Secretary], F. Kay [Weedon Bec History Society], T. Kesten [Trustee and Individual Members' Representative], J. Smith [Harpole Heritage Group], S. Young [Trustee and Archaeological Director].
2. Apologies were received from G. Boreham [Towcester and District Local History Society], S. Deacon [Trustee and Secretary of the Trustees], A. Standish [NARC].
3. The minutes of the meeting on 9th January 2017 were approved.
4. Matters arising:
 - 2017 AGM: Roy Friendship-Taylor, who is the agreed speaker at the AGM, should be sent details of location and timing. [JA to do]
 - Sponsorship list: It was confirmed that DH had a complete list of sponsors. These are now to be listed on the website. All individual donors are to be given a mention." CLASP is grateful to all the many individual sponsors who have made individual donations". [DH is to progress this]. GH agreed to amend the letterhead in due course.
 - Membership Contact list: TK confirmed that he believed that there was no need to rationalise this. DH (who was absent for this item) should pursue if he disagreed.
 - Northampton Castle project : We have heard nothing back re this. Should we be contacted about future work this will be considered as a new project proposal.
 - First Aid: Norman Garnett reported that he had contacted the Red Cross and St John's Ambulance Brigade about training. He proposes to also contact U3A and South Northants Volunteer Bureau It was agreed that money is available for training and NG was asked to follow up ahead of the Summer projects. (Action NG).
 - MK 50th anniversary heritage day [MK 50]: TK reported on CLASP's proposed presence at MK50 on 17th-18th June. There was a discussion as to which artefacts would be put on display and SY will follow up. The key issue is ensuring there are enough persons to man the display. It was agreed that the membership has been circulated asking for assistance. (Action JA).
 - Proposed Dollman Farm display: A query arose as to whether this clashed with MK50. GH thought it did not but would find out. (Action: GH).
 - Publication Policy: RC summarised a paper written by RC and SY. We have a duty to report and publish our findings. Ahead of all research we should agree with the landlord that the work can be published. We should only , exceptionally, take on research where there is no consent, where this helps us complete the research jigsaw and with the prior agreement of the Organising Committee.
5. The Branson's Lane excavation in Towcester was reported by DH as being a successful dig in wintry conditions. Tony Harrison and Sandra Deacon are drafting the report which is to be ready in June. Rod Conlon is examining the early pottery for us and Cotswold Archaeology is dealing with the later ceramics. CLASP is to receive £500 for our excavation work.
6. Project proposals for 2017 were outlined by SY. Further excavation of the moat at Thrupp is to take place during the week beginning Monday, 5th June. From 31st July, for two weeks there will be excavations of the defensive ditches at Bannaventa at the NE corner and at Thrupp (across the road from the 2016 excavation) . The plan is that we will move from one to the other

according to how the work proceeds. The Thrupp site is going to be afforested so this is the last opportunity for us to excavate in this particular location. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Whitehall will be our focus between late August and early September. This is dependent on the harvest. Finally, there is likely to be field walking at Barn Close, Harpole. DH said our research proposal for Bannaventa will be completed within the next two weeks.

7. Project Prioritisation and Resourcing: RC, DH and SY had produced a note following a letter from a member raising concern about our ability to handle future work. RC summarised the recommendations:
 - Our reports on past projects have been prioritised. Firstly, the Barn Close report needs to be sent to Historic England and the target is to complete by the end of June. Secondly, the Branson's Lane report is needed by Northamptonshire CC by the end of June. Thirdly, geophysics reports, which are still outstanding, will be signed off at the rate of one a month for the next four months. As regards Bannaventa, the aim is to get something to Historic England by the close of this year. The intention with regard to Whitehall is to place the final report into the hands of Nick Adams by December 2018.
 - Future research work should be focussed on completing research on existing projects and/or work that contributes to the Local People Local Past research. All work needs to be agreed by the Organising Committee.
 - We need to identify all the key roles in CLASP, the skills necessary for them and the members who might be interested in getting trained in these roles. The objective is to reduce the excessive dependency on people and to have sufficient persons for future work. In due course we will also pursue external advertising to attract in new members with interests in these roles.
8. DH has agreed to become our representative on the Northants Heritage Forum.
9. The next meeting is at Norton on Monday, 26th June

Trustees: Dave Hayward (Chair), Sandra Deacon (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Grenville Hatton, Tony Kesten

Organising Committee: Rob Close (Chair), Jim Aveling (Secretary), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary)

CLASP is grateful for support from:



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