



1. **Attendance:** R. Close [Chair], J. Aveling [Trustee, Secretary and Blisworth Heritage Society], G. Boreham [Towcester and District Local History Society], S. Deacon [Trustee and Secretary of the Trustees], A. Evans [Trustee and Treasurer], D. Hayward [Chairman of Trustees], J. Johns [Membership Secretary and Weedon Bec History Society], F. Kay [Weedon Bec History Society], A. Kesten [Trustee and Individual Members' Representative], M. Lewis [Trustee], S. Pervez [Trustee], J. Smith [Harpole Heritage Group], S. Young [Trustee and Archaeological Director], J. Pyle [Observer].
 2. **Apologies:** N. Garnett [Whitehall Roman Villa], B. Wiggins [Phoenix].
 3. **Minutes of the July meeting:** These were approved.
 4. **Matters arising:** Articles for "Hindsight" will be progressed later in the year. Discussions about a possible archaeology day in conjunction with MOLA are still to be held. RC stressed the need for CLASP to obtain sponsorship for the current cost of storing our physical artefacts.
 5. **Project reports:** SY reported that the Barn Close report remains outstanding Focus has been on work relating to Bannaventa . A report on Whitehall will follow the other two.
 6. **2018 projects:** SY gave a brief resume of the two digs at Thrupp this year. He mentioned the ephemeral nature of the Iron Age ditches and the stony surface which was revealed. We don't know whether this area is inside or outside a long vanished structure. This dig has raised more questions for us to answer. Our dig on the site of the medieval village revealed more evidence of the controlled demolition by Daventry Priory. Again few artefacts were uncovered, leading to the conclusion that the evicted villagers removed everything useful and portable as they left. We uncovered a large cobbled surface buried beneath the demolition rubble, which may have been a village street, roadway/trackway, or a courtyard. We are handicapped by not having extremely accurate GPS and SY wondered whether MOLA would be able to take a few readings for us – possibly for the next dig commencing on 17th.
 7. **Proposal to increase dig donation:** DH proposed an increase to £10 as this year we have to pay for machines to excavate our initial trenches as well as toilets. It was agreed that given we had already communicated the cost of the 2018 digs the increase should be implemented next year. RC requested that we identify sponsors for future projects.
 8. **Weekend digs:** We were disappointed that having the digs over weekends did not attract those who had requested it. RC wondered whether we had publicised these enough and whether holiday times had conflicted with archaeology times.
 9. **AGM:** DH is to do the publicity. RC and JA are to be at Harpole for 6pm on the day. SY is to ask D. Cottrell for his assistance. Re the sound system J. Pyle will bring some artefacts from Shawell. M.Lewis will bring photos of the Branson's Lane excavation. Phoenix and NARC are to be asked by JA if they would bring some of their finds to the meeting. Case studies in folders will be on display and there will be a donations box to encourage voluntary contributions. JA is to sell raffle tickets.
 10. **Northants Standards for Archaeology:** DH outlined his paper. We need a small group to examine the impact of accommodating these requirements. DH will contact individuals. We know we need to obtain UIDS numbers which are issued by the County Archaeology Officer.
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Trustees: Dave Hayward (Chair), Sandra Deacon (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Tony Kesten, Marcus Lewis, Jim Aveling, Salma Pervez

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