



- 1. Attendance:** R. Close [Chair], J. Aveling [Trustee, Secretary and Blisworth H.S.], S. Deacon [Project Communication to Members], A. Evans [Trustee and Treasurer], N. Garnett [Whitehall Project], D. Hayward [Chair of Trustees], J. Johns [Membership Secretary], F. Kay [Weedon Bec H.S.], M. Lewis [Trustee], J. Pyle [Independent Members' Representative], T. Saxby [Trustees' Secretary], A. Standish [NARC], S. Young [Archaeological Director].
- 2. Apologies:** G Boreham [Towcester and District Local History Society], S. Pervez [Trustee], J. Smith [Harpole Heritage Group].
- 3. Minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November:** These were approved.
- 4. Matters arising:**
  - a. Barn Close [Harpole] report is to be completed for the March meeting – SY.
  - b. Northants County standards in archaeology have been revised. This will have implications for our current practices. DH to assess.
  - c. The briefing on QGIS mapping by Cotswold Archaeology to be arranged at a future date.
  - d. The Cambridge academic who is examining the bones from our cemetery excavations is to be approached by SY to speak at our next AGM. Expenses to be paid.
  - e. The results of the Geophys survey at Guilsborough were disappointing, field seems to have been badly contaminated perhaps because of the infilling of ancient fishponds.
- 5. 100 Club.** So far not enough members have replied to the request to say whether they will support the Club or not. Agreed that RC should have a final attempt to get a response.
- 6. Projects for 2020.**
  - a. Manshead Field. SY, ML and DH are to meet Mr Russell, the farmer. The lengthy Autumn rains have set back farming operations, which could affect our dig dates.
  - b. Financing of our digs. DH reported that the National Lottery is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by offering monetary grants. He has made an application and we will know if he has been successful by the end of this month. It was agreed that we would still charge attendees and the amount would be decided at the next meeting.
  - c. Borough Hill. DH has been unable to contact C. Chinnock of MOLA about a proposed excavation. It was noted that Leicester University may be involved too.
- 7. Field Centre.** The Tuesday Group is involved in cleaning the bones from the Cemetery site. JP reported that the archiving on Wednesday has been on hold pending clarification of the standards. DH has obtained a grant of £1,000 from the CBA for the disposables. Well done, Dave! The new CEO of New Creation Farm has met with DH, SY and RC. By mutual agreement we are looking to strengthen the tenancy agreement. A car park is to be created on the site of the burned down buildings. We will be able to drive to our building for loading/unloading and will have a few disabled parking slots next to the Centre. A pedestrian walkway will run from the car park to our building. The electrics in the Centre are being examined to ensure safety levels are met. The cupboards from East Haddon [offered to us by Jane Rintoul] were discussed along with ways of collecting them.
- 8. Resourcing:** DH and NG are investigating Just Giving and crowd funding. Thanks to Chris Mawby we received £200 from Waitrose and other concerns have similar schemes. DH confirmed that Role descriptions for Trustees were to be reviewed at the ensuing Trustees' meeting. Fred Kay reported that his son, Tim, was willing to take over Jeremy Cooper's duties as Website manager. He reported that once he and SY had completed two Reports that were in hand he would produce a Report proforma, which we could use to bring more members into supporting the report writing.
- 9. Spring Newsletter:** Contributions should reach Tony Johns by 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 10. Next meeting:** This will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Trustees:** Dave Hayward (Chair), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Marcus Lewis, Jim Aveling, Salma Pervez.

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