

800 Charter Celebration

Minutes of a meeting held on January 17, 2011, Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester

Present

Stephen Spencer (chairman), Alan Hooker (Treasurer), Gordon Allgood, Richard and Ros Brown, David Busk, Karenza Dunn, Sheila Hammond, John Hoile, Colin Hyams, Charles Looker, Joanna MacKenzie, Alan Martin, Nigel Pauley, Ruth Randall, Ken and Pam Sneeth, Mary Stokes, Alan Suter, John Thackray, Jonathan and Sue Young, Peter Heseltine (Minutes)

Apologies

David and Mary Stokes, Joanna McKenzie, Mal Cohen, Brenda Hennessey

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the chairman. Proposed John Hoile, Seconded Trish Harewood.

Matters arising from the minutes

Royal Visit

John reported on a recent meeting with Wood Green Animal Shelter. A Royal Visit would depend on the final programme. A possible alternative was Simon Thurleigh. Wood Green wanted to provide an event during the week as part of the celebration.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Town Council who had decided that the QE School Hall would only be available for six free meetings. The Chairman had discussed this with the Town Council who were to consider this at their next meeting. Nigel reported that he felt this was a confusion with the Community Association.

Financial Matters

Grant applications

Charles reported that a grant of £1,000 has been obtained from the Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity for the historic sign project and I have given the cheque for the full amount to Alan. He had thanked the Lady Neville Charity on behalf of the Community Association (to whom the grant was made) and will take on the responsibility of reporting to them when the work has been completed.

Since we started to look for funds the SITA landfill site has re-opened and the area has once again become eligible for funding from the SITA Trust. He did not believe that any of the projects were likely to be eligible, except possibly the coffee shop. Important exclusions are new buildings, new extensions to buildings, purchase of land and running costs. They will fund physical improvements (excluding of course the foregoing) to community facilities, sport and recreation facilities and historic buildings. There must be full public access to any of these. Examples of physical improvements include heating systems, equipment, disabled access and refurbishment.

Please advise Charles of any projects which might be eligible and he will start making an application. John reported that a sub-committee had been set up to apply for a Lottery Grant.

Club 800

The final draw would be in February and re-invitations were invited as soon as possible from existing members.

Main Sponsor

A committee meeting was to be held on January 27 at 8pm at the Comrades Club to progress this further. Members interested in the sponsorship programme were invited.

Forecast

A current budget had been supplied with the Agenda. Alan had tried to put some income numbers together including the Town Council's grant, Club 800, grants, advertising and some sponsorship. A gift for each child was proposed. Nigel stated that the Town Council's Sign money could be spent on the child gift if not required for the sign. A revised budget will be supplied with the minutes (Attached).

Work outline and Programme

John explained that this had been circulated without response. The committee needed to know what was required with timings and costings. A lottery application required a programme with appropriate finance. Members were asked to complete the form one week prior to the next meeting. He was concerned about the amount of work that was still required and suggested an Executive Committee to drive the event forward. Alan, John and Peter would draw a committee together. The Work Outline is attached.

Activities and Events

Living History Event

The organiser had given some grant application modules for the event. Alan was waiting for costings for the Event.

Street Closure and Medieval Market

Gordon offered to organise an Antiques and Medieval Market on the Living History weekend on June 30. This was accepted

Historical Signs

A location list had been supplied. David Stokes would obtain planning permission. The signs were a possibility for sponsorship.

Town Signs

Peter Irving reported on action following the meeting with the District Council. Alternative designs were being considered. The Environment Agency had offered to meet the costs of the sign and installation although final approval was still to be agreed. It was felt that a simple sign should be designed which need not necessarily include landmarks.

Literary Competition

The Committee had met and drawn up the requirements. Their report is attached to the minutes for discussion at the next meeting.

Twinning Committee

It was proposed to arrange a visit by Hungarian dancers the cost of which (£3000) would be met by the Association. Accommodation was required. The logistics of this would need to be considered.

Time Capsule

Further information would be available at the next meeting

Olympic Torch

John reported that Godmanchester was on the list and a decision would be made by March 2011

Publicity

The chairman was appointed to be in charge of publicity

Parish Church events

The first weekend would include a Thanksgiving Service with the Flower Festival. An RAF band was proposed for a concert on June 30. The Hungarian dancers might perform. A community in Uganda was being supported.

Fireworks

A firework display to start and finish the year was suggested.

Any other Business

There was no other business

Future meetings

These would be scheduled for the third Monday of each month: February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 21 at the QE School at 8.15 pm

Literary Competition Progress 17.01.11

A meeting was held on 13th Jan to which all 6 adjudicators and Tony Veale, the Hunts Post Editor, were invited. One adjudicator was unable to attend due to illness. Trish chaired.

- It was decided that the competition would be open to anyone who lives, works, is educated in the town, or who attends, a Godmanchester organisation and that the entry should capture some element of Godmanchester; the people, place or history.
- The categories (poetry/fiction & non-fiction) and age-groups within each category were discussed and the consensus seemed to be for 4 age-groups, Keystage 1 (Yrs 1>3), Keystage 2 (Yrs 4>6), Keystages 3 & 4 (Yrs 7 >11) and finally Yrs 12, 13 and adults together. This would require 33 prizes as KS1 would not be invited to produce non-fiction articles.
- Other arrangements of the age-groups were discussed. Division into 5 age-groups would require 42 prizes and into 6, would require 51 prizes. That is, a 1st, 2nd & 3rd for each age-group within each category.
- Possible prizes were discussed and will be investigated and costed. The final entry date needs to be 31st December to allow for sufficient time to judge and make the results and some winning entries available to the Bridge Magazine for their press date, around the end of March.
- It was felt that six months was a long time between entry and prize-giving, so such an event should be arranged halfway and World Book Day in March seems a good option. This year that will be on the 3rd March. It will be around that date next year.
- Possibilities of a book/pamphlet of prize-winning entries was considered but even with reducing the length of fiction and non-fiction to 1,000 words, it was felt that this could be a major outlay and difficult to recoup the costs. However, it will be investigated further and a publication would be aimed at a July release, to correspond with the main Anniversary celebrations.
- The alternative or additional possibility of on-line publication was also discussed and Andy Veale (Hunts Post Editor) felt that space could be made available on their website. There was speculation about the possibility of space on the Community Association website too.
- Andy Veale offered design and printing facilities for publicity for the Competition. He also offered to arrange a spot on the Community Radio, when up and running, to advertise the competition.
- Liaison with schools will start in earnest after this Whitsun Holiday and continue into the autumn term when Andrea Porter (Poetry category) and

Andy Veale will arrange workshops in the primary schools and at Hinchinbrooke to heighten awareness and encourage the children to participate, .Andrea for poetry and Andy to provide a journalist for the non-fiction side of the competition.

- Other organisations in Godmanchester would also be made aware, and their membership encouraged, by various means, to participate.
- Trish is to approach some possible business sponsors after consultation with JohnThackeray who is applying for the Heritage Lottery Grant and who will be able to advise on businesses already approached for funding, ie, The Co-op. It wouldn't be helpful to approach them from several angles.
- Anyone wishing to see the more detailed minutes of the meeting can ask Trish to send one on via email. Copies have been sent to the Chairman and Treasurer of the 800 Committee.

Report from Town Sign Group to Godmanchester 800 Committee
17 January 2011

1. Meeting with Hunts District Council, Thursday 16 December 2010

Present: Elizabeth Fitzgerald (EF) Planning Dept; Nick Armour (NA) Conservation Dept; Cllr Colin Hyams (CH) and Peter Irving (PI) Town Sign Group

Points raised by EF and NA

Consultation. EF and NA recommended we go for a simpler sign, and be clear what we are attempting to portray. Is it the history of Godmanchester, the history of the last 800 years or the history of the Charter? Select one or two key icons when we have answered the first question. What do people in the town want? Have we asked them? If not, perhaps we should. They suggest a questionnaire.

Execution. The Planning Dept requires much more information re the sign. To obtain planning permission HDC will need to see more than a design. They want a scale drawing of everything – sign, post, plinth (if we go for one). Depths, girths, height off the ground etc. And samples of the material we are proposing to use. A photo montage was also suggested. Location of the sign – Planners happy with the general location but suggest a better site would be nearer the pavement and further to the north of the green area.

Planning permission. The earlier this is submitted the better. The **end of February** suggested by HDC. Planning Permission documentation is to be found on the HDC website.

2. Meeting of Town Sign Group *et al* on 21 December 2010:

Present: Peter Heseltine, Colin Hyams, Peter Irving, Alan Martin, Ken Savage, Stephen Spencer (Chair, 800 Committee)

1. CH and PI reported back on HDC meeting.
2. PI agreed to keep Sign of the Times up to speed with developments and request a polyurethane sample and a scale drawing.
3. Committee confirmed it was the history of Godmanchester *as a whole* that was to be represented on the sign, not just the past 800 years.
4. Stephen Spencer offered the services of the graphic designer who works for his publishing company in producing an alternative design for the sign.

3. Sponsorship of the sign. The Environment Agency has offered, not only to erect the sign for us, but also to pay for it. This was seen as very good news.

