



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on December 4th 2017

1. Welcome and apologies

Present : David Newport (DN), Julia Hodson (JH), Sue Longden (SL), Pat Richards (PR), Patrick Candler (PC), Anne Garfoot (AG). Rachael Evans (RE) joined meeting at 2.20 pm.

Apologies : Karen Richardson (KR), Jo Hunt (JoH), Rachael James (RJ),

2. Minutes for 9th October 2017

Minutes read and agreed as correct

3. Matters arising

The Head gardener, Gary Potts, is willing to attend a meeting to talk about the Japanese Gardens, but this needs to be arranged through JoH.

PC has not been able to make contact with Geoffrey Bond or Mitch Stevenson.

PC has spoken to Toyota. Their funding is not available as Newstead is outwith their catchment area from Burnaston and also because of type of work to be funded.

PC has forwarded written confirmation of current funding available through NAP to Rachel James.

There has been no further contact with David Sneath or Christian Furr.

PC has written to Charles Watkins regarding dates for a summer event based around the Japanese Gardens next year.

4. Finance

The financial statement is as at September – no incomings –no outgoings.

SL offered to take over post of Treasurer. Proposed by PC Seconded by AG. Unanimous approval.

ACTION: PC to organise hand over from DW to SL..

5. Fundraising / West Front Project

PC provided an update on the position with WMF. He has had further talks with John Darlington who now has four points of contact for potential donations (2 individual people and two trust funds). During the next few months, JD will be exploring the options.

To clarify the process, any funds donated to the WMF will then be transferred to NAP which will be the means by which these can be 'passported' to the City Council to fund the West Front repair.

We need to ensure that there is no duplication of approaching the same parties for funding.

RE advised that Historic England is keen to support the Newstead Abbey restoration. Scheduled Monument Consent was commissioned in September meaning permission is in place for work to commence once funding is in place.

A timeline for funding from JD needs to be understood so that RE can raise an application to Historic England for balance of money needed.

ACTION : PC to confirm whether the WMF funding is time limited or can be accrued to next year and to contact JD to follow up on his funder contacts.

ACTION: RE to have a draft application available for NAP by end of January.

RE explained that with the imminent closure of Nottingham Castle to allow the improvement works to be carried out and with changes to the Arts funding arrangements, there were consultations taking place on a structural and staffing re-organisation within the Museums and Arts Service. It was anticipated that these would be effective for April 2018.

6. Grounds Management

The Japanese Government is supporting the upgrading and improvement of Japanese gardens around the world.

PC has approached Graham Hardman of the Japanese Garden Society to find out more about the scheme and what the application criteria might be. PC has asked Graham to put the case forward for Newstead's Japanese Gardens. PC to follow up with Graham following his return from Japan.

ACTION: RE is to speak to Ron Inglis to clarify what are City Council's plans for the Japanese Gardens

7. Membership Events/Activities

PC raised the matter of a possible programme of activities for 2018. Options are:

- Another Symposium
- Victorian photographer. As it was not possible to fit him into the Christmas programme in Newstead, he would be interested in holding workshop events with 8 people per session @ approx. £20 pp. DN to follow up.
- Cookery events (SL to research)
- Silhouette Artist "Roving Artist" (JH)
- Byronathon - DN proposed a weekend in October with readings from Byron's works in the Great Hall possibly through the night with possible video clips and maybe live feeds. Local artists Ian McMillan, John Harvey and Vicky McClure may be available. As this was a potentially complex project to organise and needed more planning time, it was agreed that a separate Working Group would meet on 15th January to discuss the idea. All NAP members would be invited to attend.

8. Communications

None

9. AOB

Book Launch for "Byron's Gondaleer" 22nd January 2018

The Sherwood Forest Trust and Woodland Trust are putting together an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for funding for 'Trees outside Woods' for preservation of Ancient and Veteran trees across the wider Sherwood area. The programme is being supported by the HLF.

PC enquired if NAP would be willing to add their name as a partner to the bid.

ACTION: RE to look at information on bid to check that there is no conflict of interest with any City Council bids.

SL offered her apologies for 15/1/18

The next Committee meeting will be on 5th February 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

ACTION: Emma to book a room for both dates.

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