



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 8th August 2016

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Patrick Candler, Derek Wileman, Julia Hodson, Pat Richards, David Newport, Pamela Young, Rachel Evans, Emma Garfoot.

PC welcomed Fiona Goddard.

Apologies: Callum Mulligan, Jo Hunt, Rachel James, Scott Goddard, Carol Gatford.

2. Minutes of 27th June 2016

The minutes were discussed and agreed as an accurate record. PY added to the list of apologies.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee agreed that PC will contact CM to get an update on his progress with the marketing side of things, and establish what kind of service he is able to provide going forward.

PC confirmed that Melissa Marshall has now left WMF.

4. Finance Matters

DW distributed financial statement and provided latest update.

NAP has gained 4 new members as a result of the Symposium.

5. Symposium Debrief

The Committee agreed that on the whole the Symposium went very well, with good discussions and a lot of interesting input from the individuals and organisations that attended.

DW noted that the additional attendees put a degree of pressure on the catering arrangements.

Accessibility of the Abbey was a problem for some, so it was suggested that next time we should confirm if anyone has any special access requirements, and ensure that refreshments are on the ground floor so that they are accessible to all.

JH suggested that we add the organisations that took part as partners on the NAP website. DN raised the point that we need to do this for both Symposiums.

PC has been contacted by several people since the Symposium enquiring about his presentation.

PC asked the Committee if we would like to do another Symposium. There was a qualified support and a similar time next year (beginning of July) was felt to be the most suitable time.

DN raised the point that if we want to get different organisations involved we would need to identify them and contact them as soon as possible.. PC suggested links to local universities, and the possibility of Charles Watkins doing his talk on the Japanese Gardens.

PY suggested leaving further discussion on the next Symposium until the new year as by that point we would know more about where we are with the West Front project.

PC formally thanked DN for all his work in preparation for the Symposium, DW for his contribution to the administration of the event, JH for the write-up, and the rest of Committee for their support.

6. Fundraising Discussion

PC set out the current context of funding in relation to the West Front and RE was able to speak in more detail about some of the more practical fund raising opportunities that could be considered.

RE had prepared a funding presentation but owing to the time left, it was not appropriate to discuss this at this point.

PY asked whether NCC's contribution would be withdrawn or reduced if we are successful in raising funds from other sources. RE confirmed that NCC's position has not changed in terms of funding. It was also confirmed that Nottingham Castle is NCC's priority at this time.

A range of different fund raising ideas were discussed, including:

- making the donations box more visible and informative
- the idea of a silver/gold/platinum donors package
- engaging more with the general public to get their support
- a Black Tie dinner event
- reviving the 'adopt a stone' scheme
- bespoke fund raising applications

RE asked Committee members to think about potential fundraising avenues between now and the next meeting, and e-mail any ideas to PC. RE suggested a potential fundraising target of £40,000 (10% of the amount required). This needs further consideration by the Committee.

DW suggested splitting the funding target into groups to concentrate on raising funds via different means (eg: high net worth individuals, general public, crowdfunding, etc.)

There are ways that NCC can help with NAP fundraising. JD has agreed to forward a list of trusts and foundations to PC and RE is willing to help with applications for funding from these.

PC is prepared to link potential funding for the Abbey into schemes that he is working on at the Sherwood Forest Trust, eg: potential links into the Sherwood Forest Regional Park or the Sherwood Landscape Partnership scheme.

PC said NAP needs to know the funding 'boundaries' in which we can operate, as we do not want to compromise any approaches connected with the Castle scheme.

Ron Inglis (RI) and RE are meeting with Historic England and will discuss the possibility of receiving funding from them.

RE agreed that she would send through a draft funding strategy that could be adopted for the WF project. EG and FG agreed to offer their assistance.

7. West Front Project

PC, RE, RI and John Darlington (CEO of the WMF) met to clarify the recent changes at the WMF and

confirm the funding needs associated with the project. PC assured the Committee that the West Front project is still a high priority for the WMF.

PC re-affirmed that the Mellon funding is still 'on the table', and that the changes at the WMF have released additional funds for the West Front – about £27k.

To date, about £120,000 of funding has been earmarked for the West Front project (this is a combination of WMF funding and NCC money). An outline target of £400,000 is required and a number of different approaches to raising this are being explored.

DN advised of some emergency restoration work in relation to the greenery growth on the top of the West Front, and that might need to be done this year rather than being put off until next year as a preventative measure. We need to ensure that NCC is aware of this.

8. Membership Events/Activities

DN confirmed that NUGs have been successful in their bid for Arts Council funding, and re-capped that the suggested date for a NUGs event at Newstead Abbey is next Easter. This is to be a 2-day event, with pop-up events in places like Mansfield and Sutton leading up to Easter. Will need to confirm site availability with NCC.

NAP has already agreed an in-principle support of £1500.

PC suggested that NUGs should give a presentation at the next NAP Committee meeting on their proposal. DN agreed to be the liaison between NAP and NUGs and confirm their attendance at the next meeting. DN also plans to take NUGs around the grounds.

Peter Hammond giving a talk on his photograph album could be a potential event for NAP members. DN agreed to contact him and discuss a date.

Byron-a-thon and National Poetry Day (6th October) were discussed, along with the possibility of NAP doing something to mark the occasion if NCC or Poet-in-Residence are not already doing so.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for NAP to see NCC's diary/programme of events so that we can coordinate any activities.

9. Communications

PC to get update from CM. FG is keen to get involved with communications and marketing.

10. AGM

The draft agenda was discussed, some amendments made, timings and locations agreed.

DN to finalise the text for the Darkness event. DW to bring projector screen.

In respect of Committee management, PC asked all Members if they could let him know of their future intentions.

EG to circulate finalised agenda.

11. Charitable Status

There has been no progress on this.

JH pointed out that we could adopt the principles on the Charity Commission website without officially being a registered charity.

DW raised the point that NAP might be looked at more favourably in terms of funding/donations if we are a registered charity.

12. Schedule of Meetings

5th September 2016 (AGM)

17th October 2016

12th December 2016

13th February 2017

17th April 2017

13. AOB

DN advised that Heidi Jackson, curator of Newstead Abbey, has retired.

DRAFT