

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on April 9th 2018

1. Welcome and apologies

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

Apologies: Ron Inglis (RI) Karen Richardson (KR), Rachel James (RJ)

2. Minutes for 5th February 2018

SW asked that it be noted that the "Farnaby & Co" choir would be willing to "perform" at events and not "host" events as minuted

Otherwise, the minutes were agreed as a correct record

3. Matters arising

Newstead – The Series

In the absence of KR, PC gave an update on the project.

KR is still working towards the production of "Newstead - the Series". Consultation has taken place with the Nottingham City Council. KR has set up "Newstead Legacy", an independent company to attract investors for the project. On May 9th, Graham Clegg, the script writer from Canada, will be having a site visit to Newstead along with Ian Duhig and Geoffrey Bond. DN to act as a guide. PC unsure whether any other NAP members are invited.

RE joined the meeting and updated the Committee on the developments with "Newstead The Series" from a City Council perspective. Following the meeting with the City Council, it has been clarified that the programme of work is to be between Nottingham City Council and the Production Company.

Newstead Legacy will manage the project up to the point of production and Nottingham City Council will charge the Production Company for the use of the site. The script for the series will be written and Newstead Legacy and the City Council will then draw up a legal contract. So, at this point some significant initial steps have been made.

RE stated that the project partnership is Nottingham City Council and Newstead Legacy only.

PC met Geoffrey Bond at a lunchtime literary event organised by David Sneath (former High Sheriff). PC was able to give a short presentation about NAP and its involvement at the Abbey..

Arrangements have not yet been made for Gary Potts to address the Committee about the work in the Japanese Gardens.

4. Finance

SL presented a report. There has been no income and no outgoings.

PC proposed that membership stay at £5 per year annually from April 1st. This was agreed.

SL suggested to arrange that members pay into the Account by Bank Transfer.

ACTION : Emma to give members information with their membership renewal letters.

LLOYDS BANK SORT CODE 77-22-23 ACCOUNT NO. 36397468

It is important that members state their name on the transfer as a record of payment

5. Fundraising / West Front Project

PC has spoken to John Darlington (WMF), and one potential investor wants to visit Newstead Abbey with DN, PC and other available members of City Council and the NAP Committee. Date is still to be arranged. PC will advise.

6. West Front

RE stated that the amount estimated for work on the West Front will now have increased. Heritage England will strive to repair rather than replace the site which should be more cost effective, RE now proposes to contact the Quantity Surveyor/Architects and recost the work. A grant application then needs to be completed. It was clarified that Newstead Abbey is on the Heritage England "At Risk" register. WMF also have the Abbey on their "Watch List". WMF and HE need to agree on the work proposed with the emphasis being on restoration rather than replacement.

7. Grounds Management

No update.

ACTION : JoH to arrange with Gary to speak to NAP Committee.

8. Membership Events/Activities

Programme of activities for 2018. Options are:

Byronathon

DN is proposing a programme of 7 sessions over the weekend, each of which will deal with the Life of Byron chronologically. Poems will be selected to relate to each session.

KR put DN in touch with Ian McMillan, who although he would not be part of the event has written a poem about Newstead and recorded it for use by NAP to use as we see fit.

KR also recommended to DN "A Modern Don Juan", a selection of Byron's poems updated for today's modern audience. Ian Duhig, who was involved in this book wants to be involved in the Byronathon and is willing to join the May 9th visit.

DN is trying to contact Alan Moore, a gothic illustrator. JH also suggested Chris Riddell. Another suggestion was a competition for local poets.

KR also suggested Alicia Stalling who is a language expert who has translated some of Byron's Greek poems into English.

The Leftlion magazine has recently featured Byron, so may be a possibility for advertising.

DN has still to contact the Byron Society.

A working party is to meet to further the Byronathon. Suggested meeting date is Monday May 14th.

SW is involved in the Gedling Heritage Group and is willing to share ideas and useful contacts.

PC left meeting at 3.20 p.m.

Silhouette Artist - still to be contacted by JH when appropriate event is taking place

Cookery Events - SL waiting for a contact to get back to her

A new General Data Protection Regulation needs to be updated and included on membership letter.

ACTION: Emma to update website and organise membership letter.

RE suggested offering members a chance to volunteer onsite. There will be a full time volunteer co-ordinator in place at Newstead Abbey as from next month.

In view of the Byronathon, it was decided to postpone any Symposium for this year.

SW asked if any dates were required for Farnaby & Co choir to perform. It was suggested that it may be useful to have them at Christmas.

RE suggested that JoH be asked to talk to the Committee about the current changes happening at Newstead Abbey.

9. AGM 2018

PC raised the issue about date of the AGM. Need to synchronise with the NAP financial year. PC to check decision taken at AGM 2017.

10. Nottinghamshire Community Foundation

DN had met with the CEO of Nottinghamshire Community Foundation who has prepared a report on how it could help NAP. This may be a useful point of contact for accessing funds. It was agreed to invite Nina Dauban to speak to the Committee at the June 4th meeting.

ACTION : DN to contact Nina Dauban.

11. AOB

SW asked that any proposed dates for his choir "Farnaby & Co" to perform be arranged to avoid disappointment.

JH showed article from Guardian about Hopwood Hall, Rochdale – of interest in view of work on Newstead Series. (see article attached)

From Hollywood to Hopwood: Star tries to restore his ancestral pile

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/01/hollywood-hopwood-star-tries-restore-ancestral-pile/>

ACTION: Emma to find article in Guardian web-site and attach

12. Dates for Next Meetings

Monday 14th May at 2 p.m. (Byronathon Working Party)

Monday 4th June at 2 p.m. (full Committee meeting)

ACTION: Emma to book rooms for these two Committee meetings