



NEWSTEAD ABBEY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2016

New Urban Gardeners (NUGS)

Prior to the Executive Committee meeting, there was an in-depth presentation from NUGS as to their plans for their Newstead event in 2017. The final details of the programme are still to be finalised, but will involve a series of community events in local villages before the main performance at the Abbey site.

The Committee expressed its support for the project and DN will remain the lead link as plans develop.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Patrick Candler, David Newport, Derek Wileman, Pat Richards, Emma Garfoot

The Committee welcomed Sue Longden to her first meeting.

The Committee also welcomed Anne Garfoot, who will be taking the minutes at committee meetings going forward as a result of EG's changed work circumstances which make attending meetings difficult. EG still happy to look after email communications, etc.

Apologies: Rachael Evans, Jo Hunt, Fiona Goddard, Julia Hodson,

Pamela Young has now left the Committee and PC has written to her.

2. Minutes of 17th October 2016

All agreed minutes as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

DN again raised concerns about greenery on the top ledge of the West Front and possible issues that water ingress and frost may cause. It appears that the Newstead ground staff are aware of the issue.

4. Finance Matters

DW provided up-to-date financial statement (which included new membership fees as a result of the Charles Watkins lecture).

5. Fundraising Discussion

There is still some uncertainty about how best the fund raising strategy should be approached – does the lead lie with NAP with support from NCC or vice versa. PC agreed to contact RE to clarify the process.

DN and PC showed John Darlington and the new Chairman of the WMF, Bill Loschert around Newstead Abbey. Both were very impressed with the site, its potential, but also the risks and liabilities. Potential funding options are being pursued.

JD is also approaching other benefactors to discuss NAP's work and possible assistance.

PC had permission from Nottingham City Council to approach the Masons regarding potential fundraising opportunities. PC, with written help from RE, has provided his contact with information on the WF, which would most likely be considered at a national and not local level.

The Masons 300th anniversary in England is next year and they have expressed an interest in a connection with Newstead surrounding this, if one exists.

6. West Front Project

NCC has approached Historic England to get the necessary permissions for the West Front Project works, so that once the funds have been raised work can begin as soon as possible. Need to check whether approvals have actually been received.

7. Membership Activities

Charles Watkins Lecture:

PC reported that the event was very enjoyable and an overall success despite the time of year not being ideal in terms of weather and daylight. PC has written to Charles Watkins thanking him and Professor Tachibana for their talk.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to do something similar in the summer when the gardens can be viewed at the same time.

There were a number of people at the event who seem keen to get involved in the restoration of the Japanese Gardens, and who have skills and experience that could help Newstead Abbey. However, he was concerned that there appeared to be no 'masterplan' for what works were needed.

PC to invite Phil Grafton (who attended the talk) to a Committee meeting for a presentation from the NCC perspective and that some form of sub-group could be formed to focus on this area of work. SL noted that if there was more awareness about the history of the garden there might be more interest and respect for it.

PC raised the idea of possible sponsorship from Toyota (however, DW noted they are making redundancies at the moment).

8. Communications

Local History Fairs:

SL mentioned local history fairs in Mansfield (May) and at Nottingham University (June) and the Committee agreed that it would be good to have a NAP stall at these events. SL to contact Mansfield Library and Nottingham University to enquire about a dates for a NAP stand.

The Committee further agreed that NAP leaflets would be necessary to have at the stands.

DW to ask CM if he was still able to design a leaflet (A4 folded) and, if he agrees, to send us an electronic copy to discuss at the next meeting.

PC suggested that as a plan B, Adam at 13Souls could do this (but noted that this would be at a cost).

Nottingham City of Literature:

There has been no follow up since the Symposium.

DN mentioned that he had received emails suggesting that there was interest from NCC in staging a Byronathon and that the project might link with the City of Literature.

PC suggested that the Chief Executive of the CoL should be invited to a future committee meeting.

PR attended the launch of the Nottingham Heritage Partnership on 26th November which was an extremely positive experience. He discussed with Cllr Nick MacDonald the possibility of coming to

Speak to NAP.

Also potential help from Alice Ullerthorne with filling in forms for grants, etc.

DN informed the Committee that there will no longer be a 'What's On' magazine. Newstead Abbey will have its own outlining up-coming plans.

9. Charitable Status

Item was deferred.

10. Schedule of Meetings

13th February 2017 (EG to email Jo Hunt to book the room from 2.30pm - 4.30pm)

17th April 2017