



Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society
MEETING OF THE SANHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Saturday 7th September at 10:00 at Church House Crowcombe

Minutes

Present: Chris Jessop (Chair), Tom Winsborough (Hon. Secretary), Robert Hutchings (Vice-Chair), Chris Chanter (Trustee), David Baker (Trustee), David Victor (Trustee), David Reid (Trustee), Adrian Webb (Trustee), Sue Goodman (Trustee), David Dawson (Chair of Heritage Grants Committee), Nathaniel Williams (Guest), Louisa Gillett (Office Manager)

The Chair introduced Nathaniel Williams to the meeting as a prospective trustee.

1. Apologies: All present

2. Declarations of interest: None declared

3. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of the Board on 13th June 2019

3.1. *Items 3.1 & 5.1.5.1* from minutes of 6th April have been resolved.

3.2. *Item 5.2 Proceedings production costs 2019.* There is a delay on the production and printing of this year's volume and production costs are not yet available.

3.3. *Item 5.3 digitisation of Proceedings from 2020.* Members who would like to receive a printed copy of Proceedings will pay £10 (individual/joint) or £15 (institutions). Their payment will be treated separately to their membership fee. Exchange partners will continue to receive a printed copy while exchange of electronic journals is investigated.

3.4. *Item 6.3 SANHS e-bulletin.* AW edited the September e-bulletin and will edit two more issues (October & November). It was decided to ask each committee to edit two issues of the e-bulletin to ensure it continues to be produced. Training to do this will be done by the incumbent editor. AW asked for contributions for the October issue.

4. Reports

4.1. Chairman's report

The Chair spoke to her report. This was followed by discussion on several matters raised in the report.

4.1.1. Membership numbers to August 2019. In addition to the seven ceased members since June 2019, 14 members who have not paid their 2019 subscription have been archived on the database to ensure they are not sent this year's volume of Proceedings.

4.1.2. Marketing & web site group. This group has been disbanded because the new web site is almost finished. A Web Site User's Group has been formed for content editors to feedback any issues. TW is the Chair of the Marketing Group. Trustees were asked to get involved in the work of the marketing group.



4.2. Treasurers report

DV spoke to the Treasurers Report.

4.2.1. Budget 2020. Budget spreadsheets have been circulated to budget holders. DV asked for these to be returned by mid-October.

4.2.2. Grants. Three changes were made to the report; the re-print costs of Maritime History volume 1 have been processed; Dr McGill has withdrawn his application to the Pat Hill Cottingham fund; and, Axbridge Banners should be re-named SANHS banners.

4.2.3. Insurance of SANHS collections. This matter is ongoing and will be reported at the next meeting of the Board on 7th November.

4.3. Report & accounts of Early Dunster project

Mary Ewing is the head of the project and Anthony Bruce is no longer involved. Historic England are impressed with the project and have extended funding for a further two years.

4.4. Estates report

4.4.1. Castle Hotel rent & rent review. CC & CJ are meeting Nick Chapman of the Castle Hotel on 11th September to discuss the non-payment of rent. It was decided to ask Kit Chapman to attend the meeting.

4.4.2. Norman Garden Project

4.4.2.1. Management of the project. CJ is overseeing the running of the project. It is not known if Martin Davidson and Anthony Bruce intend to continue working on the project, although they have suggested the project is set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It was agreed that the Society is unlikely to pursue setting up a CIO at this time. Nigel Pearce has agreed to head the team managing the day-to-day work of the project. It was decided to find out what involvement Martin Davidson and Anthony Bruce want to have with the project. If Martin & Anthony do not want to be involved in the project, the Board will reconvene to discuss how to take the project forward. It was agreed that the parties involved in carrying out the project are Nigel Pearce and team, the SANHS office, and a SANHS team of David Victor, Chris Jessop, Tom Winsborough and Robert Hutchings.

Action: RH & AW to meet with Martin & Anthony to find out if they want to continue their involvement in the project.

4.4.2.2. Launch Event. This has been put on hold until after the project has started.

4.4.2.3. Press Release. The PR will state that the project is a SANHS project, being carried out with several partners and funders, who may or may not be named, depending on anonymity. Castle Hotel will be asked to write a piece to be included in the PR.

4.4.3. Charging points in the scheduled monument. This item was not discussed.

4.5. Committee reports for 2019

It was noted the Historic Buildings Committee will no longer include their events in the SANHS events programme, but will instead, display them on the SANHS web site.



4.6. *Report from the Proceedings Editor*

A report was not available for the meeting. The Proceedings Editor, Rob Webley, had sent an email stating that Proceedings production has been delayed. It was decided to despatch the Programme of Events earlier than Proceedings to ensure members are advised in advance of events being held in October.

5. **Proposals**

5.1. *Fees for reproduction of SANHS images*

Proposer: CJ

Secunder: DV

The proposal was adopted by the meeting.

Action: Several changes to be made to the policy, after which it will be added to the SANHS web site (SG).

5.2. *Reserves Policy*

Proposer: DV

Secunder: AW

The proposal was adopted by the meeting.

5.3. *Reduce Board quorum to six*

Proposer: TW

Secunder: AW

The proposal was adopted by the meeting and will be added to the agenda for the membership to vote on at the EGM in December 2019.

5.4. *Co-option of Robert Hutchings as Vice-Chair*

Proposer: CJ

Secunder: TW

The proposal was adopted by the meeting.

6. **AOB**

6.1. *Business Plan 2019*

It was decided to remove some of the activities from the Business Plan due to lack of resource to do the work. These activities will be added to the Strategic Plan and considered at a future date if there are adequate volunteers available to do the work.

6.2. *Archaeology in the Norman Garden.* A proposal was received by email from Martin Davidson to carry out a funded archaeological dig in the Norman Garden. It was explained that some areas of the garden cannot be excavated because they are under three metres of spoil that was deposited in the 1930's, and therefore this proposal is not feasible. A small excavation could be carried out in areas where there will be ground disturbance due to project works, for example, by re-siting the disabled access path in the north west of



the garden. The project could be done collaboratively with South West Heritage Trust and Mick Aston's Young Archaeologists.

Proposal: For a Community Archaeology Project in the Norman Garden, to be supervised jointly by Bob Croft & Chris Webster of SWHT and SANHS Archaeology Committee.

Proposer: RH

Secunder: DV

The meeting adopted the proposal.

6.3. *Somerset Mapped event on 21st September.* There will be a fund-raising raffle at the event.

7. Date of next meeting

7th November at 10:00 at the Somerset Heritage Centre.