



Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society
Meeting of the SANHS Board of Trustees on 10th June 2022, SWHT, Taunton

MINUTES

Present: Chris Chanter (chair), Christine Webster, Emma Turk, David Reid, Martin Salzer, Lizzie Induni and Gerardine McHugh-Soliman

- 1. Apologies:** Louisa Gillett
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** none
- 3. Co-option of Emma Turk as a trustee:** Trustees agreed and voted unanimously
- 4. Proposal to take back the Wyndham hall and adjacent land from SCC:**

Chris Chanter explained the proposal to bring back the Wyndham hall into the care of SANHS and to run it as an independent cinema, lecture theatre and meeting place for SANHS members.

DR asked if the venture as stated in the proposal failed in some way, whether it would be possible to sell the building. G M-S asked about the current state of the building. CC stated that he had asked for a quote for mending the roof from Ben Bruce (son of Anthony Bruce) which would cost about £5,000. MS asked if the boiler was mendable, and DR enquired about the roof insulation. Given that we any have £7,000 at present, LI requested that any expenditure be passed through the Board before it was acted on.

Sources of funding: The Board expressed a positive response on the possibility of getting funding for the repair of the building. The Board also agreed to exercise the option to recover the area of land between the glass bridge and the hall.

The proposal that:

Exercising the Option to surrender the Wyndham Hall back to SANHS

The Society (SANHS) owns the freehold of the Wyndham Hall – built in 1927 – upon the bequest of George Wyndham. The building was ceded as part of the Castle lease in 2011. Since then, the Somerset County Council has not maintained the building. An option to surrender has been drawn up that gives the Society the right to take the property back. The Somerset County Council are prepared to relinquish the property as the continuation of their tenancy will cost more money. The absolute right to take the property back expired in 2019, but is extended till October 2022, but at their discretion. We have a legally binding option which relinquishes their tenancy, and we seek the Trustees approval to put it into practice. SCC has offered £7000 as a full and final amount to settle any liability of maintenance.



The proposal was put forward by LI and seconded by DR. The Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

5. Interim Budget

MS explained that there was a good chance that the Castle gardens would pay the money they owe soon, but in the meantime he would propose an interim budget.

Possible changes to a forthcoming budget might include moving the publication of the Proceedings into the current year and the production of a Newsletter.

The Interim Budget was proposed by MS and seconded by CW. AGREED BY Board unanimously.

There was further discussion on the state of the Castle gardens: the gardening team be getting back to work asap and the collapsing wall behind the shed needs repair.

The grant for HE for the repair specified that the public be allowed into the garden. The new (current) lease says that this is ok but with the permission of the Castle Hotel.

Information Board The grant from HE has also specified that SWHT do this. This needs discussion with the SWHT. G M-S and CW will chase.

Railings: Nigel Pearce is in hospital for a new hip so unable to deal with this at the moment.

6. Apparently there is a difficulty with having Chris Chanter as chair of the Society as he has already served 6 years as a trustee. A solution to the problem of apparent inadmissibility of our AGM motion to *suspend* (under very specific conditions) a part of our constitution was to hold a further general meeting, where we made a *change* to the constitution. We discussed the potential difficulties of achieving a quorum (20) and suggested that an email solution might make it easier to get a quorum. Louisa to investigate further.

7. **Date of the next meeting:** 15th July 2022, 2pm, to be held in the SANHS room at the Castle with a visit to the Wyndham hall to follow.