

SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP

Meeting held electronically, via Zoom on Monday 12th July 2021 at 2pm

Present: Garry Titmus (S&DCT), Faith Hopkins (S&DCT), Benda Hitchcock (S&DCT), David Marriage (S&DCT), Mark Bamford (S&DCT), Doreen Bamford (S&DCT), Linda Edwards-Shea (STC Cllr) Paul Cope-Faulkner (Heritage Lincolnshire)

The meeting was supported by the Temporary Deputy Clerk and Administration Officer (SG).

1. **Welcome**

GT welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

No Apologies were received.

3. **Minutes**

The notes from the last meeting held on 2nd June 2021, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. It was noted that actions from this meeting were either complete or ongoing.

4. **History and Archaeology**

4.1 **Re-establish Working Group**

It was reported that the Archaeology sub working group didn't reach the stage to hold a meeting before AB (sub group lead) had resigned as a member of the Sleaford Castle Heritage Group.

Action: GT to email members of the SCHG to re-establish members of the Archaeology sub working group together with overall management arrangements.

4.2 **Planning for excavations**

GT read out information regarding excavation and archaeology excavation then shared pictures of Castlefield by HB.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need for further surveys, time scales and funding opportunities. It was recognised that there needs to be a better understanding of what the Castle looked like for future interpretation boards. It was noted that there was £6,000 in STC's budget, for further survey work.

It was reported that the Kesteven & Sleaford High School Selective Academy are happy with non-invasive work to be carried out on the playing fields.

5. **Proposed new public access**

It was reported that STC have been asked to agree, in principle, to a new public access point. LCC, Network Rail and the Robert Carre Trust would need to be contacted if this project were to progress.

Following feedback from STC's 'walkround' on 11th July, the views and concerns expressed by some STC Councillors with regards to the costs of a new public access and what would be there for members of the public to see, was discussed. It was expressed by some STC Councillors were not in favour of a bridge from Nags Head Passage to the Castlefield site, at this present time.

It was agreed that a business case for a new pedestrian access and improvements to Castlefield would be needed, as well as identifying revenue funding for on-going costs once the capital work had been done.

It was felt that connectivity from the town centre and the railway / bus station would be vital in drawing in visitors to the site.

The distinct strands of the project (access, archaeology, signage etc) would need to be worked up simultaneously into a business case.

Action: Set up a separate working group to progress a business plan. David Marriage, Faith Hopkins, Brenda Hitchcock, Linda Edwards-Shea and Garry Titmus would form the group.

6. Presentations, Displays, Exhibitions in 2021

6.1 Public presentation on symposium

GT reported that he had agreement in principle from the headteacher at KSHS to hold a public event and presentation at the school.

Action: GT to confirm with KSHS on an October time frame and to speak to SP and others about the format and delivery of the event.

6.2 DM reported that display materials were organised for Heckington Show on 24th July 2021.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 GT spoke about the Group's ambition to work with schools, with the possibility of developing teaching materials related to the project.

Action: Mark Bamford offered to liaise with schools and ask about suitable subjects, levels to fit with their curriculum and timetable and report back to the Group.

7.2 L E-S invited the Chair to give an update to Council at their meeting in August. GT agreed to attend in person.

Action: NM to advise the Town Clerk for purposes of the meeting agenda.

8. Date of next meeting – To be confirmed.