

SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP

Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 10.00am

Present: Garry Titmus (S&DCT), David Marriage (S&DCT), Doreen Bamford (S&DCT), Brenda Hitchcock (S&DCT), L Edwards-Shea (STC Cllr), M Offer (STC Cllr), Doug Plowman (Landscape Historian), Mark Bamford (S&DCT) arrived late after another engagement.

D Bamford stood in as the notetaker.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

GT welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Paul Cope-Faulkner (APS/Heritage Lincolnshire) and Faith Hopkins (S&DTC). Administration Officer (MW) gave apologies that she was unable to give support to the meeting on this occasion.

2. **Minutes of last meeting 06.07.22**

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

GT reported that PCF had expected augering to have been carried out by now, but it will hopefully be completed this month.

- GT will contact PCF to enquire if a date has been set.

3. **Update on progress since last meeting – if any.**

NKDC 'Levelling-Up' funding (UKSPF) proposals include projects to improve Nag's Head Passage and to develop Monument Gardens area.

NKDC aim to have Castle Visitor Centre in the town, possibly in Butter Market or part of CA building. (Heart of Sleaford Plan)

NKDC to support bridge access plan into Castlefield – part of UKSPF proposals.

- DJM will contact Tim Benton to request sending more detailed plans to Carre Heritage asap.

4. **Receive Proposals from Hist/Arch WG**

GT presented a paper giving background to Sleaford Castle Project and current proposals for the development - six areas of project funding - from the recent meeting of WG (6/9/22).

Briefly, these are:

- Archaeological evaluation of site by APS, followed by targeted excavations.
- Development of interpretation boards to 'tell stories' of the Castle.
- After archaeology, additional boards plus VR/other digital media.
- Improvements to access, development of pathways (Groundtrax, Geotech) , plus benches, bins, picnic tables.
- Events on Castlefield to develop further public interest.
- Community Dig, Heritage Lottery bid.

Concentration initially on 2nd and 4th areas of development.

Although original intention was to bid for a proportion of S106 funding, the timescale for its use is too short for this to be practicable and STC seems to favour its funds being used elsewhere.

- Decision taken that SCHG would request £100,000 from Town Council funds to be 'ring-fenced' for the project. Possible match funding from Heritage Lottery? A bid to the Town Council with outline costings, plans explained, quotations and timeline would be required to be presented by Wed 19th Oct (full Council Meeting).
- Additional help is to be requested from at least 2 other committed Council members to join the SCHG in the light of this Castle plan moving forward, if we are to achieve our aims and ambitions.

5. **AOB**

LES has too little time to update FB Council Castle page – DB agreed help.

- LES will add DB as Joint Administrator.

DP agreed to accompany Councillors on walk through Castle site if required to enthuse and explain just why this site and the early history/archaeology of Sleaford are very important and possibly unique. DP will supply DB with material to post on Council Castle FB pages.

DJM gave thanks to Rob and his team for the excellent work on the Castlefield site keeping it clean and tidy.

Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 10.00 in Town Hall.