

## **SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP**

Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10:00am

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

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

### **1. Welcome**

GT welcomed all to the first face-to-face meeting since October 2021.

STC Cllr M Offer being a new member to the SCHG, was introduced and given a summary of the groups aims and objectives together with the progress of the project, as to date.

GT informed members that this meeting will be different from previous ones and will be more of a question-and-answer session in order to take the project forward.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from DB.

### **3. Minutes**

The notes from the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

GT reported that all the actions from the October meeting are all accounted for and complete.

Thanks were given to STC Service Team for their continued work in keeping the Castlefield site maintained.

### **4. Actions and Progress since the last meeting.**

GT reported that although there has not been a formal meeting of the SCHG since October 2021, work has continued out of committee. The following gave an indication of the progress made and members discussed each point in turn.

- 1) Following a comprehensive report (covering all aspects of the project) published in May/June 2021, Sleaford Town Council agreed unanimously "to support in principle the continuation of the Castle project" at its 24 November 2021 meeting.
- 2) Over the course of several months, discussions have taken place to ensure that Sleaford Castle's potential as a key part of the heritage and recreational offer of Sleaford is recognised and incorporated into both the nascent Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan and the latest refresh of the Sleaford Masterplan. This is vital if the full potential of the Castle and its grounds are to be achieved.

- 3) A submission to the Castle Studies Trust for funding to carry out a geophysical survey of the Kesteven and Sleaford High School playing fields in support of archaeological investigations into Sleaford Castle was not accepted.
- 4) An auger survey of the moats and possible fishpond through Heritage Lincolnshire/Archaeological Project Services (APS) has been commissioned and funding arranged. Originally planned for March this has been delayed and a new date awaited.
- 5) Sleaford Castle will become the latest destination on the extended Sleaford Heritage Trail. As part of this, arrangements are being made to straighten the main signboard supports and to replace the current illustration of the castle with a newly commissioned painting of what Sleaford Castle may have looked like in about 1585 -when dismantling would have been well underway. The signboard will also include a temporary QR-coded plaque with information on King John's visit in 1216. This has been made possible with the support and financial assistance of Mr Chris Hodgson, Sleaford Town Council, the Civic Trust and the Sleaford Museum.
- 6) MB of the SMT has been busy promoting Sleaford Castle with a newly developed talk entitled "The Life and Times of Sleaford Castle".

5. **Hist/Arch proposals for research and survey in 2022**

It was suggested to work with schools on the project's aims and objectives with the outcome being a promotional video.

**Action: LES to contact the St. Georges School**

6. **Re-establish Planning/Fundraising**

There was a brief discussion regarding possible interpretation boards and the importance of having something physical for members of the public to see. It was agreed that the Historical WG meet and discuss ideas.

**Action: MO to be invited to the Historical Working Group Meeting (DTBC)**

7. **Funding**

- a) Remaining funds – STC £6,346
- b) Remaining funds – S&SCT £466.10
- c) Seek external funding for the whole project

**Action: LES to contact the Arts Council.**

8. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10:00am, in the Town Hall.