

## SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP

Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 9:00am

**Present:** Garry Titmus (S&DCT), Faith Hopkins (S&DCT), David Marriage (S&DCT), Mark Bamford (S&DCT), Doreen Bamford (S&DCT), M Offer (STC Cllr), Paul Cope-Faulkner (Heritage Lincolnshire), Linda Edwards-Shea (STC Cllr), Brenda Hitchcock (S&DCT) and Doug Plowman (9:20am) (Landscape Historian)

The meeting was supported by the Administration Officer (MW).

1. **Welcome**

GT welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

3. **Minutes**

The notes from the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

GT reported that the following actions are ongoing but are not time sensitive.

Action: DM to contact TB to request sending more detailed plans to Carre Heritage

Action: LES will add DB as joint Administrator.

4. **Update on progress since last Meeting**

a) **Levelling up funding/possible bridge**

It was reported that the Development Manager at NKDC, although concentrating on the possible new access and visitors' centre, is very supportive of the overall Castle Project.

It was further reported that funding has not yet been confirmed as available.

A brief discussion took place regarding the connection between establishment of a new public access bridge and the proposed walkway and interpretation boards on the site. It was recognised by the Group that a new bridge would only be viable if the on-site improvements were made and that this latter aspect of the project is dependent on approval and financial support from Sleaford Town Council.

b) **Submission for funding from STC**

Prior to the meeting GT circulated an amended submission to STC which included an "Executive Summary". The new report details the following:-

- Proposed Earmarked STC Funding
- Proposed Funding from CIL and/or S106
- Outside contributions
- Timescales

Action: LES to amend the report and "Executive Summary" before presenting to the next Full Council Meeting (or Extraordinary Budget Meeting?).

The Group discussed the importance of interpretation and information boards and the benefit they would have in providing information to members of the public. It was agreed to move this project forward in stages. The first phase would be to conduct limited archaeological excavations (5 trenches), open to community engagement and local schools. This work to be funded from the remaining funds from STC.

It is hoped that this could be carried out around Easter 2023 (Good Friday being 7<sup>th</sup> April). It is possible that the delayed auger survey could be conducted around the same time. It was confirmed that the ground would be reinstated by the Archaeologists after any work has been carried out.

Phase 2 would establish exactly where the pathway would go, together with the interpretation and information boards.

The Group reiterated the importance of this project and the footfall it would bring into the Town and agreed to promote the project as much as possible.

It was also suggested that the Civic Trust should have a pitch at a future Friday Market (Note: to be discussed after funding decisions have been taken).

**Action: Arrange a tour of the Castlefield Site with the Clerk and the Acting Deputy Clerk. Time and date, to be confirmed.**

**Action: Arrange a tour of the Castlefield Site with STC Councillors. Time and date, to be confirmed.**

**5. Update from Hist/Arch Working Group**

There was a brief update from the working group, which covered the submission to STC and the task of providing the historical and archaeological information required for interpretation/information boards and castle guide. Date of the next meeting for the WG will depend on the outcome of the submission to STC. It will not be before the beginning of February 2023.

**6. Any other business**

GT provided details of the funding situation regarding the Castle element of the Sleaford Heritage Trail (SHT). Funding will be supported from the Power Station Community Fund, STC, S&DCT and SMT. This sponsorship will be acknowledged on the SHT booklet.

**7. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 10:00am, in the Town Hall.