



Whittlesey Mud Walls Group
c/o The Old Town Hall
Market Street
Whittlesey
Peterborough
PE7 1BD

Minutes for 5th October + update

- 1 Present - Mesdames: Glazier, McAndrew, Mean, O'Donnell, Phillips.
Messrs: Shearing, Boddington, Hancock, Whitwell, Glazier, Phillips, Lacey.
Apologies - Mr Burbridge.
- 2 Meeting times - As some members cannot make Wednesday meetings due to work commitments, it was tabled to have alternate day and evening meetings, but the general consensus was that the current meeting time was the most appropriate, and those who can't make it are kept up to date by email or hard copy anyway.
- 3 Katie's report - We'd sent her several emails since last month which required some answers. She was, as always, very helpful, and I'll add her responses to each question as they're listed below.
- 4 Constitution/Treasurer/Bank Account - We need the constitution in order to appoint a treasurer and to open a bank account. At the last meeting, Nicola suggested a change of wording on one part of the constitution, which she would do and email to Ray, but so far has not done so. Katie will therefore see Nicola when she returns to work and address the issue. Hopefully, this will be concluded at next month's meeting.
- 7 Payments due for Black Bull meal - Those members who were required to reimburse Roger for their meal were given written details. This is due to be collected at the next meeting. For those reading this who did not come to our meal, this was a planned arrangement, we are not collecting debts!
- 8 Alteration to 'hand out' leaflet - During our Festival event, it became apparent to Annette that the format of this leaflet was not correct, so a redesign was needed. Our new member Jo has taken on the job, and will work with Annette to complete this.
- 9 Survey results & next meeting - Although our survey volunteers were happy to continue their work for us, it became clear that our chosen date of Saturday 8th October was impossible for many, as they had prior commitments, some to Street Life. It was also suggested that our introductory letter needs to be delivered to the homes with walls we wish to survey, one week in advance. Thank you all for your input on this, we've made changes to avoid this in future. A rewording of the letter has been done, David Hancock and myself will deliver these in advance, and our survey dates will not clash with Street Life. To that end, our next survey date is Saturday 29th October at 10.30am. Meet at the museum as usual and we'll tell you where we want you to go.
- 10 Bees - This was a request from Nikolett, who wanted copies of our information about bees, and also copies of her survey forms which she'd filled out on our first

surveying trip. I've since emailed all these to her. Incidentally, if anyone else wants copies of their survey forms, put your names on them and let me know, and I'll email them to you.

11 New wall found - New members Steve and Janet White have a mud wall in their garden. This one is special because it had been forgotten about for years. Even David Hancock wasn't aware of it. Steve told us that the land was between 2 builders contracted sites, and they argued over it for years. Eventually, Steve was given the opportunity to purchase the land and turn it into a garden. This period has clearly helped the wall to survive, but the site was a dumping ground, so it has suffered. Our expert Robert has been to give advice on how best to tackle some repairs, and to suggest tradesmen. Steve wondered whether he might be able to get any grants for the cost of repair. Having asked Katie, her answer was 'probably yes'. She had hoped to go and see it but was called away, so I've given Katie's contact details to Steve, and we wish them well.

12 SPAB emails - At our Festival event, we were able to bring Anthony Goode, Katie and landlord Chris together to talk about getting the Black Bull wall put right. We have no authority, but we can be influential, and plans are taking shape, although the legalities may take a while to sort out. Anthony has emailed me to ask if we can source a lorry load of mud, which Robert and I investigated and have confirmed, and I'm sure there'll be more questions to come. I also had an email from Clive Baker, who would like to see SPAB members doing project work on our walls, and has been asked to do an article about our event for the SPAB local newsletter. I provided some of Jenny's Facebook photos of our event, and we look forward to seeing the finished article. Ian Harper also emailed me. He also wants SPAB's continued involvement and also suggests project and training days on our walls. Katie was highly delighted with their responses, and pointed out how significant they are, and we are very grateful for their support of us.

13 Heritage applications - As we still await our constitution, we cannot progress with this at present, but events that are occurring regarding mud walls convince us that we will soon need that funding.

14 Future plans/Scouts - There were 2 events for November which we initially looked into; an arts project, which after consideration wasn't quite our thing, and appears to have now been cancelled, and an event at Eastrea centre, which again is not really suitable, so we'll look to contact the Scouts, as they have an activity badge based around heritage and local knowledge. As their curriculum will be set until January, we'll see what we can do for them in the new year.

As I was putting this together, we were informed by Elaine Wilkes that the thatcher was due to start on her wall on Monday 10th October. Several of us appear to have been observing and have taken photos, and we all agree, it's a fantastic job. So congratulations to Elaine for getting it done!

We had a meeting with the Festival committee on Wednesday 11th October - the initial planning meeting for 2017's Festival! We are now officially included in their

preparations and will continue to be present at their meetings throughout the year.

With all these things slowly coming together, I'm tempted to suggest that Whittlesey Mud Walls Group may have an interesting year ahead!

Next meetings -

Survey briefing – Saturday 29th October at 10.30am.

Regular meeting – Wednesday 2nd November at 10.30am.

Mike.