



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

Minutes for 2nd November + update

- 1 Present - Mesdames: Glazier, McAndrew, Mean
Messrs: - Shearing, Boddington, Hancock, Whitwell, Glazier, Phillips, Catterwell, Green
Apologies - O'Donnell, Burbridge, J Phillips, Whites, Farkas
- 2 Minutes from 5th October - These were signed as a true record.
- 3 Constitution - The correction needed had been done by Katie and emailed to Ray beforehand, who had printed the new copy and brought it to the meeting.
Treasurer - Although Ray was willing to be our Treasurer, he was willing to step aside if another member wished to accept the job. Richard Phillips was proposed and duly seconded, so welcome aboard Richard, and we'll get on with opening the bank account.
- 4 Conservation area - We asked Katie for a copy of the map showing the amended conservation area of Whittlesey, (this was mentioned in the September minutes of Whittlesey Society). We require this as when we're surveying, we do get asked by owners if their mud wall is inside the area or not.
- 5 National Civic Day - This is for the 50th anniversary of the setting up of conservation areas in 1967, so without this piece of legislation, we wouldn't be able to do what we're doing. This is for one day only, and will happen on Saturday 17th June 2017. On the leaflet was a suggested list of ways to celebrate this event. The one that appealed to us was to organise a walk around Whittlesey, to view our mud walls, so we'll start making plans.
- 6 Payments for Festival meal - Those of us who were due to reimburse Roger for our festival meal, duly did so.
- 7 Survey report - We went surveying on Saturday 29th October. We split the group up so we could do different areas, which went well, and again we were well received. As our surveyor David Hancock has suspected, we were again able to find more walls that he hasn't previously seen, which is yet more good news.
- 8 Roy Gerstner's article - Our 'community activist' put an article on his web page, highlighting the re-thatching of the West End wall. It mentioned our group and its aims, but that responsibilities remain with the owners, and general congratulations were given.
- 9 Jenny's WMWG Facebook page - We've asked Jenny to put a factual piece on our Facebook page, explaining the extent of our involvement, and Robert will do likewise on Street Life.

10 Estate Agents - During our recent surveying, we found a property with a mud wall, that was for sale. It occurred to us that we should notify estate agents about mud walls, which should be passed on to new owners, so that they are aware of their responsibilities towards the walls. We will prepare an official letter to be given to Whittlesey estate agents, and any others whose board we find at a property with a mud wall, with a suggestion that new owners should contact us for advice and support.

11 Mr Phillips survey report - I hadn't seen Richard since we sent them out on Saturday 29th, so I had to collect their paperwork and arrange for photos to be emailed to me, which I've now got, and again we're very pleased with their work, thank you. He also told us of another wall which is unknown to us, which they found and will survey, so watch this space!

12 Next Survey - We would like our volunteers to go out twice this month, on Saturday 12th November, and again on Saturday 26th November. Meet at the museum at 10.30am and we'll tell you where we want you to go.

13 David Mason - It has come to our attention that Cllr Mason was responsible for getting the foliage removed from the mud wall at the entrance to the Conservative Club, which has been done very well, and congratulations to him for that. However, it's now highlighted the repairs that are needed in the near future to safeguard it. We have asked Ray Whitwell to contact Cllr Mason and refer him to our minutes from 5th October, which refers to the involvement that SPAB would like to have here, to prevent him from potentially employing an inexperienced tradesman to repair it.

14 Robert - Annette and I had some questions for him, which we discussed before the meeting started.

15 Scouts Activity Badge - As reported at the last meeting, the scouts curriculum will have been set until January. I required an email address, which fortunately Richard was able to give me, so contact can now be made to see if we can work with them in the new year.

16 AOB - This was not brought up at the meeting as it wasn't known at that time. It refers back to the Street Life comments regarding the West End wall. Amongst them are comments from Cllr Eamonn Dorling, who praises our work, and Cllr Dee Laws, who as well as praising our work, highlights the fact that our minutes can be found on Whittlesey Town Council's web page, so many thanks to both of you.

After we'd left the meeting, Robert and I took Katie to see Mr & Mrs White's wall. She listened intently as Steve related the history surrounding it, and after being hidden for 20 years was amazed at how so much of its originality remained. So much so, that on closer inspection revealed certain aspects that if proved right could rewrite the known knowledge of Whittlesey's mud walls! Katie now has some research to do and we'll hear about it in due course.

Next meetings -

Survey briefing – Saturday 12th November at 10.30am.

Survey briefing – Saturday 26th November at 10.30am.

Regular meeting – Wednesday 7th December at 10.30am.

Mike.
(scorpionmike57@googlemail.com)