



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

Minutes for 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 + update

We wish all our members a very Happy New Year.

- 1 Present - Mesdames: McAndrew, Phillips, Prebble, Barbeck, Mean  
Messrs: Shearing, Phillips, Boddington, Hancock, Whitwell, Prebble, Green  
Apologies - Glazier, Glazier
- 2 Minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> December - These were signed as a true record
- 3 Committee - There were 2 items from our committee meeting. The first item concerned local community funding. I'd given Richard information for two organisations that had advertised recently, but after further investigation he informed us that they weren't suitable for us. We're also looking at a third option and some Whittlesey shops funding. The second item was ideas for increasing community knowledge of mud walls, and we received useful feedback from members which we'll be able to act upon.
- 4 Jenny – Annette had proposed that the committee should have I.D. Cards, which was seconded by the committee. Jenny agreed to help us with these and has taken some photos to start. I also had a draft document for a promotional advert for the group which is to go in the museum's notice board. After making the alterations suggested this has now been given to Jenny for completion. Members also suggested other places where we may be able to have this displayed. Since the meeting, it's now thought that members who come on surveys or events for us should also have I.D. Cards, so I'll talk to Jenny.
- 5 Katie - Katie brought a copy of the SPAB magazine with the report of our Festival event. It was very well received, and I've since got my copy, so I can get copies done if anyone would like one. She also had information about a SPAB lecture on mud walls that's due to take place soon in London, but it was thought it's a bit too far to go. I asked Katie to see if she could get any information about an owners obligations once a wall has been listed, and there was concern regarding the 'walks round the walls' which we've planned for the civic society and the scouts. It was suggested we may need Public Liability Insurance, so after the meeting we went to Whittlesey Insurance, who confirmed that yes, we would need it. As we will also need it for our Festival event again, it may be cheaper to buy 12months cover. I'm waiting for the quote.
- 6 Gracious Street - There was an article in the current Discovering Whittlesea about Listed Buildings. It mentioned the Whittlesey Conservation Area, and that Gracious Street was included in it. I looked at the map Katie has just given us. Gracious Street is split by Orchard Street. The half of Gracious Street behind the Ivy Leaf Club is entirely

within the Conservation Area. However, on the other half of Gracious Street, the only part that's in the Conservation Area is the Baptist Church, and does not include the mud walls of 87 Gracious Street owned by Mr & Mrs Kilburn. Katie did mention that protection was possible for properties outside the Conservation Area, but it would be the owner's responsibility to contact the relevant authorities.

7 Christmas Tree Festival 2017 - Jenny Parker has invited our group to display a tree at St. Mary's Church in December, so we're asking our members for ideas on making 'bauble - sized' mud wall decorations. Robert knows Peter Sennett, who makes items for the Straw Bear event, who may be able to make us a 'centrepiece', but we'll need about 24 individual decorations to hang on the tree. It's been suggested that cubs or brownies, if they're not making their own tree, might be willing to do ours, or maybe U3A, so we'll enquire. Another idea was to have a mould made so we could make as many as we want, so if anyone knows who could make a mould for us, please let me know. Alternatively, perhaps we could make it a competition, and get people making decorations for us to win a prize, so please give us your thoughts.

8 'Twinning' - One idea for increasing community knowledge of mud walls that we thought of, was to contact other areas of the UK which have mud walls. There's Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire, Cumbria and Devon that we know of, and we think Whittlesford in Cambridgeshire may also, as it has a pub called 'Bees in the Wall'. We won't need to go through the formal 'twinning' process, we'll be looking for a much more informal arrangement. I'll draft some documents.

9 Nikolett - We also have our members Nikolett and husband Robert from Hungary. She's asking for more involvement with the group, and I'm exploring some ideas for her, but I mentioned at the meeting the possibility of informal 'twinning' with their home towns, which was well received, and both Nikolett and Robert were also pleased with the idea. They have agreed to try and get contact details for me. I contacted the Fenland Twinning Association for advice, and they suggested contacting the Hungarian Embassy in London. I'll draft a document.

10 AOB - We agreed we need to recommence surveying again, so you'll find dates and times below of when we'd like to see you. Meet at the Museum as usual, and we hope the weather will be kind to us.

At next month's meeting, Katie wants to check all of our documentation, to make sure we've got what we need to satisfy HLF.

Next meetings -

Survey briefing - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 10.30am. (weather permitting)

Regular meeting - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 10.30am.

Survey briefing - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. (weather permitting)

Mike.

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