

**Whittlesey  
Mud Walls  
Group**



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

Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> August

- 1 Present - Messrs: Shearing, Phillips, Whitwell, Gerstner, Boddington, Hancock.  
Apologies - McAndrew.
- 2 Minutes for 4<sup>th</sup> July - These were signed as a true record.
- 3 Parson Drove school update - We had plenty of space on the school lawn, and the weather was just right. We split the class into 2 groups, so one group was learning about the mud walls whilst the other group did their practical. After an hour they swapped, so after 2 hours they'd all heard the history and seen the pictures, and all had done some puddling and made a mud brick. Even the two teachers donned their wellies and did some puddling, and the caretaker helped us clean up afterwards. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the staff couldn't thank us enough. We should be sent some photos that the staff took. It did prove to us that it's something we'll be able to do in future, if asked. A big thank you to Robert who bought a suitable trailer in order to transport the equipment.
- 4 Survey booklet - We now have our survey booklet. There are copies to view in the library, museum and Whittlesey Town Council office. We're already getting very positive feedback from people. We'll shortly start delivering to the properties where the walls are located.
- 5 Funding - As has been reported, we'd received a grant from the Glassmoor local community fund to pay for our survey booklet. We're now continuing with our awareness and education activities, and ultimately to start thinking of how to get the walls repaired. All of these missions require funding, and Cllr Bob Wicks has kindly offered to help us set up a 3yr funding requirement programme and advise us on funding availability. This will hopefully allow us to realise our aims.
- 6 Whittlesey Festival - Plans are progressing well. Chris at the Black Bull is arranging to have his van moved to a different area of the car park, and the adverts will be in the local publications and shops soon. We aim to put on all of the activities we did in 2016, and we have a number of volunteers. However, we would always appreciate more help, as this would allow others to have a break. So if you have a spare hour and you'd like to help us, please let me know.

7 Wall repairs - You may have seen in the press, at 9 Market St above the travel agent, work is going on to convert it to a hotel. In one room, a series of paintings on a mud wall were found, dating back to 1650. The mud has developed cracks in it, and after talking to Katie McAndrew, the restorer, Sam Whittaker, contacted us to obtain a suitable quantity of the correct mud to repair the damage. Robert is currently checking building sites in the area to find some good subsoil for him, and also to supplement our own stock.

At our meeting, Ray Whitwell asked us about our plans to start repairing the walls. It does appear that we now need to consider asking SPAB to organise a training day in Whittlesey for those who wish to learn how it should be done.

The discussions for the funding plans and wall repair plans will be aired at forthcoming meetings, and I believe this is a significant milestone for the Group. We're attracting support, organisations are willing to work with us, and this gives us a realistic opportunity to realise our aims.

Next meeting -

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am.

Mike.

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