

MINUTES OF CAAG MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 30TH 2021

Present

Bob Steward FBDMA	Julie Kennedy. Berwick Community Trust
Alan Hughes Resident Berwick	Marion Mead Resident Berwick
Zoreen Hill Berwick Civic Society	Margaret Thomas Resident Tweedmouth
Michael Greener BTC Councillor	Graham Brown BTC Councillor
Ros Kain NCC Conservation Officer	Eleanor Scott NCC Conservation Officer
Margaret Shaw Resident Berwick	

Apologies

Catherine Seymour NCC Councillor	Dorothy Slater Spittal Improvement Trust
Chris Burgess Archaeologist	Stephen Scott Chamber of Trade
Martin Lowe Historic England	Georgie Hill NCC Councillor

AGENDA

1. MS chaired the meeting in the absence of CB She welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for their attendance
2. Apologies -as listed above
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday Aug 26th accepted
4. Matters arising -none other than agenda items.
5. Update of WTH

MS read a prepared report. Attached with these minutes

General support offered to the principal of enthusing young people about the value of our Town Walls. Specific comments about other towns promote their Walls MT mentioned York. Chester use interactive maps for promotion.

AH commented that English Heritage had little money to spend. This was one reason why they are developing plans for amendments to the Barracks including incorporating housing in one of their wings.

Areas such as the Visitor Centre, the YHA gallery and the Main Guard could be used as promotional material about the Walls. Subject, of course, to agreement.

ZH asked about the possibility of future symposiums.

MS explained that historically CAAG had held an annual symposium to explain and develop their work during the year such as the administration of the HERS scheme and the Area Partnership Schemes that had brought hundreds of thousands of pounds into the town The last two had been linked to our Walls and included the launch of Walled Towns Heritage (WHT)

6. Amendment to remit

BS said that he had authorisation from Ian Hay to report to and from the Greenses and will continue as FBDMA representative.

MT suggested that a combination of Tweedmouth West End with St Boisils would be preferable to represent Tweedmouth.

MS suggested that she incorporated the suggested amendments and reword where necessary and attach with these minutes for further comment at the next meeting. This was agreed.

7. Additional Item -Financial Matters -MM as Treasurer

Confirmed that the signatories for the account are existing Marion Mead , Bob Steward (replaced Ian Dods) Margaret Shaw. AH has agreed to replace John Robertson.

(MM has informed MS subsequently that she has applied for the necessary forms.to complete the transition.)

8. Current Planning Applications.

MS and others commented that JN used to do a grand job of assembling relevant applications. This need would have to be resolved.

General comment included 51 Ravensdowne wishing to install charging points

9. AOB was permitted before planning presentation It was agreed that the remainder of the application would be discussed next week

BS asked at what stage the Neighbourhood Plan had reached. Cllr MG commented that he may be in a better position to answer as the Councillors were meeting David English NCC who would talk new Cllrs in particular through the needs of the Neighbourhood Plan MS commented that the draft planning module had come in for some severe criticism. ZH commented that concern had been expressed particularly that in terms of planning environmental issues had disproportionate weight to heritage issues.

10. St Aidan's Site, Grammar School Community Centre -presentation by NCC Conservation Officer Eleanor Scott.

The site has two distinct areas The Grade 2 * main building and the subsidiary buildings at the rear. The front wall is also listed because of the swirls on the end stanchion.

AH said he would research swirls. Initial findings below

Swirls are found in nature, shells for instance giving them stability....the intention of using them in art it is thought that from earliest times they denoted strength and also the circle of life itself...Eleanor Coade began offering detail designs such as these to architects from 1769... "Nature has often adopted the spiral shape as a very efficient design for growth, strength and survivability. It is no wonder that man has used the spiral motif in art and has incorporated the graceful, elegant spiral shape as a major design element in architecture."

The planning application is on behalf of the Youth Project. The listed building has a covenant saying that it has to be used for educational purposes.

Little has been done to the building in the last 5 years except to board it up and make it watertight. This has not prevented the theft of internal fittings including the staircase .

The building still retains considerable character however.

The proposed layout was highlighted indicating flats for supported living and a larger caretaker's flat. It was suggested that the internal space could have been better used and much of the construction would either remove or obscure significant features.

Comment was made about the glazing of the windows, Should double glazing be permitted or would secondary glazing be more appropriate although the existing windows are not the original Georgian ones. However it was also noted that an internal window is likely to be original

It was stated that public benefit may be argued as bringing a derelict building back to use.

Discussion took place about the proposed demolition of the archway leading to the rear of the building. This is not listed and was probably added in the days of the Grammar School.

Some discussion also took place regarding the development to the rear.

It was agreed that further discussion would be deferred to the next meeting so comments regarding this aspect will be recorded in the next minutes

The architect is Minette Edwards,

ES was thanked for her presentation.

The meeting concluded at approx. 11.45 am

11.Date and time of next meeting.

October 28th at 9.30 am in the WEB .

Margaret Shaw