

## MINUTES OF CAAG MEETING ON JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### Present

Alan Hughes Resident Berwick  
Zoreen Hill Berwick Civic Society  
Michael Greener BTC Councillor  
Margaret Shaw Resident Berwick  
Dorothy Slater SIT

Marion Mead Resident Berwick  
Ros Kain NCC Conservation Officer via Zoom  
Bob Steward FBDMA  
Graham Brown BTC Councillor

### Apologies

Catherine Seymour NCC Councillor  
Stephen Scott Chamber of Trade  
Julie Kennedy. Berwick Community Trust  
Chris Burgess Archaeologist

Martin Lowe Historic England  
Eleanor Scott NCC Conservation Officer  
Margaret Thomas Resident Tweedmouth  
Georgie Hill NCC Councillor

### AGENDA ITEMS

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 November 25th
  - Accepted as accurate
- 4.MATTERS ARISING
  - None other than appearing as agenda items
5. TREASURER'S REPORT.
  - MM provided the current balance of £898.73
  - MM received a cheque from Berwick Rotary for £250 and MS written a letter of thanks from CAAG. **MS should have mentioned that she has been asked to talk to Rotary about CAAG and with the group's agreement she is prepared to accept the invitation on behalf of CAAG**
  - MT has kindly agreed to act as an additional signatory to the bank account This has still to be confirmed by the bank
6. REPORT FROM WTH
  - MS said ZOOM meeting to be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov at 5.00pm Minutes of the zoom meeting held on Friday Nov 26<sup>th</sup> still not received but information gleaned from phone call with

Secretary (MS unable to attend zoom meeting) and contact by MS with Tweedmouth West School attached.

7. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR YEAR 2022 **The last Thursday in each month has been booked with and agreed by the Trust for which we are indebted.** January 27<sup>th</sup>. Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. March 31<sup>st</sup>. April 28<sup>th</sup>. May 26<sup>th</sup>. June 30<sup>th</sup>. July 28<sup>th</sup>. Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. (December date in place for the time being.)

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES IN WHICH CAAG SHOULD/COULD BE INVOLVED.

Ros Kain informed the group of an exciting project. A bid for a grant from Historic England directly relating to Conservation Area Management. If the bid is successful NCC has agreed to the 50% match funding which will be required.

The proposal is to carry out an external audit, both character and appearance, of the three conservation areas of Berwick Tweedmouth and Spittal. When completed this evidence based audit will encourage informed decisions to be made relating to new developments (Maltings Theatre) to improve public realm work and to inform policy making as examples. There will be the opportunity for CAAG members to be directly involved after adequate training. This training may be carried out by Jules Brown of HE.

MG asked whether Gareth Davies of BTC was aware of the proposal RK said she would write to him.

RK said initial signs were hopeful as Berwick has taken precedence over Hartlepool and Hexham

BS asked whether this would enable the conservation areas to be linked /extended. This seems unlikely but a boundary review would form part of the assessment

ZH mentioned the poor state of many benches in the town .MG said that an audit had been made of the location of benches.

CAAG members were enthusiastic and support the application.

RK said that the result would be known very shortly and she would inform Ms to pass on to group. MS did this and reproduces here the significant sentence

*“After careful review of your application I am pleased to let you know that it is likely to be successful and we will be in touch in the next few weeks to discuss the next steps.”*

8. CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NAMING OF SPITTAL ALLEYWAYS-not a planning application but relevant for discussion.

- MG brought to the meeting previously circulated comprehensive information about renaming the alley ways of Spittal
- CAAG members were supportive of the idea . Comments made included trying to ensure accuracy. MG said extensive consultation, especially amongst the older population had been undertaken. NCC has agreed to pay for the signage and CAAG members were pleased to note that the NCC officer directly involved had suggested CAAG should be consulted.

- RK offered suggestions about possible colour for the signage

21/03958)FUL 21-25 Main Street. 2/2 bedroom flats to rear of above property. Considerable discussion ensued and MS summarised the comments. Circulated them for comment before posting on the NCC planning portal as an objection.

21/04774/TREESCA 22, MAIN STREET SPITTAL

For information if a tree in a conservation area has been completely felled as happened in Storm Arwen retrospective planning permission is not required. However, if a tree has only been partly uprooted planning permission is required but will be granted on health and safety grounds.

21/0401/LBC 5,Quay Walls, A Georgian Townhouse Grade 11\* listed.

Discussion of this property is deferred to the next meeting to form part of RK training on windows. "Repair not replace -avoiding the loss of traditional windows."

#### **9. AOB**

- RK informed the group that Ian McCaffery was once again working in Berwick This news was welcomed by the group He is working for NCC Tues, Wed, Thurs.
- ZH and AH commented that ECP had been refused at 51, Ravensdowne and the Whaling House. . This has resulted in cables being run over garden walls.
- MG said that he would ask about the circulation of TC planning committee minutes. They are a matter of public record.
- DS expressed extreme concern about the sink hole that has further developed at the Spa Well and action needs to be taken to attempt to solve the problem.
- AH reminded the group of the Amazing Spaces programme Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Channel 4 that focuses on the excellent refurbishment of Le Louvre for use as accommodation.
- CB has asked MS to ask the group about further training from Jules Brown. When CB asked he was unaware that if funding is granted to audit the Conservation Areas Jules is likely to be directly involved with the training of CAAG members.
- AH told the group that the front of the Grammar School building had been cleared but no other progress seems to have been made

#### **10. Date and time of next meeting.**

- February 24th at 9.30 am in the WEB .