

**Meeting of the 247<sup>th</sup> committee meeting of Tiverton Civic Society  
held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 10 Blundells Avenue**

**Action by members in bold on right**

**1 Attendance**

1.1 *Present:* Jeremy Salter, Frank Connock, Fern Clarke, Mary Cross, Tony Longbourne, Brian Jenkins, Anne Davies, John Rendle.

1.2 *Apologies:* Dennis Knowles, Andrea Rowe.

**2 Minutes of the 246<sup>th</sup> committee meeting**

2.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Newsletter**

**Action: Brian and Fern**

3.1 The deadline for articles is 18<sup>th</sup> April, sent to Brian.

3.2 Fern and Brian meet on 25<sup>th</sup> April to agree the layout.

3.3 It will go to Involve for printing in the first week of May and be available for delivery from the second week in May.

3.4 Articles include one from Tony Jarram on the importance of John Heathcoat to NW England, and articles from Douglas Rice and Fern.

3.5 Norman Annett is preparing an article which may be best published in the May 2017 edition.

3.6 Roger Whittlesey has prepared a history of Clare House which he has sent to Fern and is willing for extracts to be used in the Newsletter.

3.7 It was suggested and provisionally agreed that the next Newsletter should focus on widespread concern about the risks to heritage buildings and conservation areas in Tiverton which have been highlighted by Historic England SW and communicated to Jeremy. Tiverton Conservation area is now officially at risk – the buildings within it are declining because they are losing their function.

**4. HODS** Update by Anne Davies

**Action: Anne and Fern**

4.1 This takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

4.2 Anne has been asked to include new items for the Open Days, and would like suggestions.

4.3 Suggestions were:

- A Blundell's theme with a guided tour of Old Blundells.
- A meeting with Alice at Knightshayes to see whether a guided tour of parts of the house not normally open to visitors would be possible
- A meeting with Cameron Harvey at Heathcoat fabrics to see whether he would be willing to arrange a pre-booked tour of the factory on Heathcoats' terms.
- An opportunity to see the interior of St. George's Church
- A meeting with Peter regarding a guided tour of Gotham House.
- An evening talk by Roger Whittlesey on Clare House.

4.4 Fern and Anne will liaise over the leaflet in July.

4.5 The deadline for entering properties on the Historic England website is end July.

4.6 Anne already has 5 walks booked. The money raised from these will fund the leaflet.

**5. Merchants' Trail Leaflet**

**Action: Jeremy**

5.1 Despite reminders and considerable effort to contact Dennis, Jeremy has had no further information on the progress of the TAP funding application.

5.2 John Vanderwolfe has not been able to help.

5.3 Zoe Lentell (MDDC), who is in charge of overseeing the progress of the application, has not been helpful.

5.4 Jeremy will contact Des Hannon and Polly Colthorpe (Devon County Councillors for Tiverton) to see whether he can get further information.

## **6. TCS Flyer**

**Action: Fern and Tony**

6.1 This had met a printing difficulty which Fern and Roy were resolving. [The leaflet is now printed and being distributed].

6.2 Tony will make a donation from TCS funds of at least £15 to cover the costs of printing.

## **7. Finance and membership**

7.1 Current account balance at 29.2.16 is £1189-18.

7.2 Deposit account balance at 29. 2. 16 is £2008-2.

7.3 Membership is as reported at the February meeting.

## **8. Planning**

8.1 Jeremy represented the Society on a stakeholder group contributing to the publication of a design guide for the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension.

8.2 Jeremy and Fern met a member of the Forward Planning Team to discuss the SPD (Special Planning Document) on solar panels and subsequently made a formal response.

8.3 The anaerobic digester (composter) at Halberton is scheduled to be discussed at the planning committee meeting on 6.4.16. The existing composter is larger than that agreed by planning before it was built. TCS has objected.

8.4 Alexandra Lodge Extension. This is scheduled for discussion on 6.4.16. Planners have recommended refusal. TCS has object on grounds of mass, as it overpowers the existing Grade II building. [Planning Committee gave permission against advice on grounds of need in the town for sheltered accommodation.]

8.5 Castle Primary School rebuild. TCS did not respond to the application on the basis that the need for a new school outweighed the merits of the existing building (not listed), although the 'off-the-shelf' design was regarded as disappointing. Jeremy responded, in a letter, to an article in *The Gazette* by John Twyford who had assumed the Society would object, stating the reasons why the Society supported the building of a new school, but did not support the extension to Alexandra Lodge.

8.6 Premier Inn. The Society has objected to this application on the grounds that the massing relative to Phoenix House and the multi-storey car park is too great. It is almost twice the height of the these adjacent buildings and involves demolition of part of the car park. Both Phoenix House and the car park were designed to retain the outstanding view of Collipriest (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) from Phoenix Lane, which is part of the attractive setting of the town. The Society also objects to a reduction in the number of parking places at a time when the town is designated to expand in population by almost half the size of the existing population.

## **9. Website**

9.1 This is updated daily by Jeremy and gets an average of 20+ hits a day (70 – 80 per week).

9.2 It is referred to by tourist organisations and links have been established with these.

9.3 Jeremy was thanked for all his hard work on the website.

## **10. Matters arising None**

## **11. AOB None**

## **12. Committee meetings**

12.1 7.00 pm on 5.9.16 at John's house – Lower Melguards, Park Road, EX16 6AU.

12.2 7.00 pm on 10.10.16. Venue to be arranged.