

SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP

Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 10:00am

Present: Garry Titmus (S&DCT), Faith Hopkins (S&DCT), David Marriage (S&DCT), Mark Bamford (S&DCT), Doreen Bamford (S&DCT), Cllr Linda Edwards-Shea (Sleaford TC), Brenda Hitchcock (S&DCT), Cllr Malcolm Offer (Sleaford TC) and Doug Plowman (Landscape Historian)

Also in attendance: Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Chris Pilkington and Helen Evans, Economic Development Officer (NKDC)

1. Welcome

GT welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for it had been received from Paul Cope-Faulkner (Heritage Lincolnshire) and Cllr John Parry (Sleaford TC).

2. Minutes

The notes from the last meeting held on 2nd February 2023, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

It was agreed that a tour of the Castlefield Site for STC councillors would be deferred until after the elections to the Town Council on 4th May 2023.

3. Update on Sleaford Castle Project

GT detailed the five stages of the project including noticeboards in 2023, the walkway in 2024/2025, the possible use of S106 for items near the entrance and UKSPF funding for a pedestrian bridge. The idea of a walkway was also discussed and the financial support available from the Town Council was referenced. Five test trenches were due to be dug during half term week and NKDC had produced a draft brief for the feasibility study work.

LES reported on the site meeting with Paul Cope-Faulkner which had taken place since the last meeting of the group. This had looked at possible sites for benches and the potential route for a walkway. Possible planning and scheduled monument consents had been discussed.

GT mentioned the idea of using the old Post Office as an Exhibition Centre and HE reported that NKDC were working on that project.

4. Report from Archaeological/History Working Group

DB reported on the recent meeting of the working group which had been joined by Cllr Parry from Sleaford TC and Emma Clark from NKDC. They had had a brainstorming session and discussed QR codes and virtual reality options for information boards as well as what to go on them and their location. A 70% visual, 30% text mix was the working proposal. The group were going to have another walk around the site and working group members would bring ideas for content for the boards to the next meeting.

5. **AOB**

GT mentioned that the filming of the town heritage trail had been done under the auspices of the Civic Trust. MB spoke about ideas for engaging with schools and the idea of a lego or knitted castle. LES mentioned the improvements required to the Nags Head passage.

6. **Dates of next meetings**

The AH working group would meet on 9th March and the full group on Wednesday 5th April at 10:30am, in the Town Hall.