

SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP

Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 10:30am

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 (STC), Brenda Hitchcock (S&DCT), Paul Cope-Faulkner (Heritage Lincolnshire) and Doug Plowman (Landscape Historian)

Also in attendance: Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Chris Pilkington and Administration Officer (MW)

1. Welcome

GT welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for it had been received from Cllr John Parry (STC), Cllr Malcolm Offer (STC), Helen Evans, Economic Development Officer (NKDC), Emma Clark, Visitor Economy Project and Funding Officer (NKDC) and Alan Gray, Economic Development Manager (NKDC)

2. Minutes

The notes from the last meeting held on 1st March 2023, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

It was noted that there are no actions arising from the minutes.

3. Project Update - UKSPF, exhibition centre, feasibility study and potential bridge

GT reported on numerous parts of the overall project which included the pathway, information/interpretation boards, working with STC to improve the entrance to the Castlefield site, benches, the Feasibility Study, the proposed bridge and UKSPF money.

GT also updated the group following a recent meeting with Emma Clark (NKDC) which are as follows:-

- Exhibition Centre due to open in February 2024 for a period of one year. Possible venues for the centre are the old post office on Southgate and the old Halifax Estate Agent opposite Costa.
- NKDC to put out the design brief with 17th April 2023 being the deadline for submissions from consultants. 19th April 2023, GT, HE and the Clerk to choose suitable consultant.
- Feasibility Study deadline – June 2023

It was explained that the design brief would cover the exhibition and interpretation boards (AR & VR interpretation) for the Castlefield Site.

Pedestrian walkway

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the pathway and its location together with the costs involved. The Clerk clarified that some of the s.106 monies had already been allocated to George Street and Woodside Play areas and that the remaining sum would be approximately £20,000 for the Castlefield site. The Clerk also mentioned that in order for Full Council to make any decisions, the group would need to provide a

comprehensive specification. In the meantime, DM to approach Carre Heritage for an estimated quote for the installation of a footpath from the entrance of the site to the 9ft river and report back to the Clerk, as soon as possible.

Recommendation to Full Council: STC to seek 3 quotes for a pathway on the Castle Site from the entrance to the 9ft river.

Following the above recommendation, the group discussed the type of material that would be used for the path and whether the UKSPF would cover all the costs relating to the information/interpretation boards.

GT briefly reported that £35,000 from the UKSPF could be used towards a potential bridge.

Sleaford Heritage Trail

GT informed the Group that the Sleaford Heritage Trail is now complete and that proposals through the Civic Trust have been made for an App to link the trail and make it easier for people to find their way around.

Archaeology

PCF gave a brief update on the following:-

- application for monument consent for the Auger Survey
- W/C 29th May - aim is to dig 5 test trenches over 3 days. Exact dates to be confirmed to allow the organisation of volunteer availability
- Possible vehicular access to the site
- Dates to be offered to new Council to carry out a 'walkabout' of the site

Following the update, a discussion arose about what happens to any items that are found on the site and who these would belong to.

The Clerk and PCF confirmed that anything found to be of high value would be held in the Treasure Trove. The Clerk also confirmed that items of less value could be held in the Sleaford Museum, with the permission being granted from STC, as they are the land owner.

Action: The Council to contact the local press

Proposed STC enhancements

The Group recognised the amount of fly tipping in the vicinity of the site and particular problem areas being the Nags Head passage and in the moat. Due to the disgraceful amount of rubbish on the Castlefield Site and from a Health & Safety aspect, the Group discussed ways of how to solve the problem.

Recommendation to Full Council: To reduce littering on the Castlefield site and to make it more attractive and visible, the shrubbery to be permanently removed.

Information/interpretation boards

DB gave an update following recent meetings of the Archaeological/History Working Group which is very much in the planning stage. She also reported that the Group are

currently concentrating on ideas and content for the information boards and having access to visual and documentary evidence.

4. **AOB**

- Date of future tour of site for Councillors
- Continued work with Heritage Lincolnshire and a suggested Service Level Agreement

The Clerk explained that under the new committee structure recently approved by Full Council, this Group would become an Advisory Committee. Therefore, the Group is a constituted Group and meetings will be open to the public and future agendas and minutes will be in the format of that of STC.

The Group all agreed to the formalising of the SCHG becoming a constituted Advisory Committee.

5. **Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 10:30am, (TBC in view of elections)