

# Minutes

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.05 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.00 PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **Members**

Mr W Chapple OBE (Chairman)  
Mr N Crank  
Mr H McCarthy  
Mr G Marshall

#### **Organisation**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Milton Keynes Council  
Wycombe District Council  
National Trust

#### **Officers**

Ms A Kenward  
Mrs E Alqassar  
Mr P Markham  
Mrs S Oborn  
Petchey  
Ms J Wise  
Mr D Sutherland  
Mr M Woods  
Mr O Rhymes  
Ms Sasha Coby  
Mrs Lucy Lawrence  
Mr Paul Clements

#### **Organisation**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Wycombe District Council  
Milton Keynes Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Buckinghamshire Museum Trust  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Mr C Harriss, Ms S Shave, Mr B Thorn, Ms L Levitt, Mr R Newcombe, Mr C Williams, Mr N Shepherd, Mr R Pushman and Dr J Moir.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **3 MINUTES**

The wording for items 12 and 13 was identical on the version circulated with the agenda.

This would be corrected.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2019 where AGREED and signed by the Chairman.**

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The following actions from the meeting held on 12 September 2019 were discussed:

- The Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust would be given an update on Quarrendon as requested.
- HS2 had been scheduled to speak but had sent apologies. A copy of their presentation would be circulated once received.

#### **5 HS2 UPDATE**

Mr N Shepherd, Historic Environment Manager, HS2 Ltd, sent his apologies.

Mr P Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer, highlighted the following:

- He and L Lawrence had met with HS2, Fusion and Historic England in summer 2019 regarding the Stoke Mandeville project plan and provided feedback. No further details had been shared as the project plan was still under construction.
- No decision had been made regarding the relocation of the graveyard at Stoke Mandeville. The final decision rested by with the Church of England who would aim to seek a site within the dioceses. Mr M Farley added that the Archaeological Society was in discussions with a Church of England representative about storing the remains in a way that allowed possible future access. It was recommended that the Archaeological Society make HS2 aware of those discussions.
- Meetings with HS2 had been cancelled as councils moved into purdah for upcoming elections.
- HS2 and Fusion had a new arrangement in place across all sites along the track to meet four times to assess progress. This was felt to be a positive step.
- The archive strategy had been approved following consultation. Finds would stay within the county of origin. Where counties had alternative arrangements i.e. agreements with neighbouring authorities, they would continue.

**RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.**

#### **6 BUCKS CONSERVATION TRUST - UPDATE ON QUARRENDON**

Mr M Woods, Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust, gave the following update:

- The Trust had formed in 2008 but the land at Quarrendon had not been transferred to the Trust until 2015.
- Trustees had a wealth of experience in different areas. The Trust was looking for more board members and interested parties should contact Mr Woods.
- The Trust was working with Historic England to stabilise the ruins of St Peters

Church.

- A new three year maintenance agreement with Historic England had recently been set. This included the management of grassland and weeds.
- A mid-tier countryside stewardship grant had allowed large areas to be returned to arable grass including new hedgerows. The trusts would shortly be making a decision on whether to extend their current contact or negotiate a new five year term.
- The Trust was working with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to mitigate the loss of habitat for farmland birds caused by the development at Berryfields.
- The Trust was looking for suggestions for further land to take on. They were currently in discussions with the developers at Kingsbrook, Aylesbury.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- Work included ensuring planting the right types of trees and plants.
- There were plans for parking and a visitor's centre pending funding. Mr Wood asked for support from the council's highways team when it came to designing access.
- Mr G Marshall, National Trust, was compiling a history of the historical Quarrandon settlement.

## **7 UPDATES FROM PARTNER AGENCIES**

### **7a NATIONAL TRUST**

Mr G Marshall provided the following update:

- Claydon House
  - Work had been carried out under the floorboards as previous investigations had shown the original carpenters had not followed the correct design specifications. This had led to concerns that the joists may struggle to support the house's heavy ceilings in the long term.
  - Various samples of wood had been collected for age analysis. The resulting data showed the order the building works had been carried out.
- Stowe House
  - From 1 April 2020 work would begin to return the golf course to its 18<sup>th</sup> century design. Drone imaging had been used to build a 3d model.
  - One condition imposed was to return 10 restored statues to their historical bases; to date four bases had been located. There was also a condition to restore a stone path.
  - A London museum had used their new radar equipment on the flat lawn and had uncovered a cellar.
- Cliveden
  - A small volunteer group had discovered the top of a lime kiln showing possible evidence of 18<sup>th</sup> century commercial production. This would be investigated further.

#### **7b BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Apologies received. No update submitted.

#### **7c COUNTY MUSEUM**

Ms S Shave, Buckinghamshire County Museum, had sent the following update:

- The Discover Bucks stage 3 project fundraising was at 75%.
- The trust would be launching a "sponsor a gallery" scheme shortly.
- It was hoped that works would start between summer 2020 and early 2021.
- The Festival of Arts would take place on 11 July 2020.

#### **7d MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL**

Mr N Crank referred to a report tabled at the meeting, a copy of which would be appended to these minutes.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- Part of the ha-ha wall discovered at Great Linford Manor Park would be reinstated. Work would also be carried out to remove unsuitable trees alongside other work to make the area more historically accurate.

## **7e BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM**

Mr P Markham referred to a report circulated with the agenda.

Mr Markham highlighted the following:

- There was now consent for the East West Rail (EWR) transport and works act order (TWAO) and AVDC would look to discharge its conditions. The Heathrow link was progressing slowly.
- The Heathrow project was now on hold and all meetings had been cancelled. It was hoped by council conservation officers and Historic England that this delay would provide time for Heathrow to catch up on issues.
- There had been significant local news coverage of the skeletons discovered outside of Buckingham. Once the remains had been cleaned and conserved decisions would be made on what types of analysis would be carried out. All results would be shared. To date there had only been two items found on site, both belt buckles, with potential dates 500 years apart.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- It was confirmed that officers had a process for following up actions with contractors. Mr Markham noted that projects that did not need planning permission were harder to enforce.
- It was confirmed the Historical Environment Records (HER) audit was progressing well.

## **7f CONSERVATION OFFICERS**

Ms S Oborn, Conservation Officer for WDC highlighted the following:

- There had been two prosecutions of vandalism in the last quarter with a total of £22k recovered. A further two cases had been referred in the last week.
- Two buildings had been added to Historic England records, Penn School and St Francis Vicarage.
- The team continued to have involvement with three fire damaged cottages in Whiteleaf where limited progress had been made over three years,
- The Buckinghamshire Historic Building Trust continued to with their restoration of 2-3 High Street, High Wycombe. Wood used in the building had been dated back to 1399.
- The Brunel Shed, High Wycombe, had formally been declared a building at risk. Details of the planning application for the site were available on the [Planning Portal](#) application number20/05133/FUL.

Mr P Rhymes, Conservation Officer, AVDC highlighted the following:

- The team were carrying out conservation area reviews. The Mentmore area had been particularly difficult to review with a number of and disputes with land owners.
- The schedule of work to the roof of Mentmore House, a grade I listed building, was not progressing. Enforcement letters had been sent.

## **7g BEACONS OF THE PAST**

Beacons of the Past would be invited to the next meeting.

The group would be hosting a talk on 7 March 2020, at Kings Church, Amersham.

## **8 UNITARY UPDATE**

Mr D Sutherland, Head of Planning & Environment, and Ms E Alqassar, Environment Manager, gave a brief update on the progress of work ahead of the new council being formed on 1 April 2020.

Mr Sutherland highlighted:

- There had been hard work in all areas to prepare for the change.
- All staff knew who they would be reporting to for day one. Term contacts would not change.

## **9 FUTURE OF THE BHEF AND THE EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND**

The Chairman stated he expected the forum to continue under the Buckinghamshire Council but the final decision would be made by the new cabinet member to be

announced on 20 May 2020.

Mr M Petchley, councillor for Milton Keynes Council (MKC), raised that the constitution would need review ahead of the introduction of the unitary council as currently it stated there would be one councillor from each district council, two from the county council and two from MKC. Mr Petchley confirmed MKC was still interested in being a part of the forum and suggested the Milton Keynes museum and Milton Keynes Heritage Association be included going forward. BCC Officers would meet with the Chairman to review the constitution and a meeting with members, including MKC, would be arranged.

**ACTION: Officers and chairman**

The Chairman confirmed that current grants paid to the community would be honoured for the next two years.

The Emergency Reporting Fund would need to be reviewed as currently it received small amounts of funding from each council. This would be brought as an item for the next meeting.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms A Woods was now on maternity leave. Her role would be covered by ? from January 2020 – January 2021 monitoring finds.

## **11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

10 September 2020, 2pm. Mezz 3, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury.

**CHAIRMAN**