

**MILTON KEYNES
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

MINUTES OF MKHA MEMBERS AGM MEETING
Wednesday 23rd September 2020 via ZOOM

PRESENT

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| Robert Excell (Chair) | Individual member |
| Dave Muston (Vice Chair) | Calverton Records Project |
| Mike Wittle (Hon.Secretary) | St Mary's Church, Bletchley |
| Charlotte Hall (Treasurer) | Woughton Heritage Group |
| Alan Cooper (IT Officer) | New Bradwell Heritage Group |
| Neil Loudon (Exec) | Milton Keynes Museum Society |
| Anna McEvoy (Exec) | Stowe House Preservation Trust |
| Dianne Sutton (Exec) | Bradwell Parish Heritage Group |
| Catherine McIntyre (Exec) | MK City Discovery Centre |
| Jennifer Cooper | New Bradwell Heritage Group |
| Brian Giggins | Towcester & District Local History Society & Towcester Historic Survey |
| Sue Blake | Cosgrove & Haversham Societies |
| Peter Barnes | Simpson Historical Society |
| Shane Downer | Milton Keynes Council – Senior Heritage Development Officer |
| John Gosling | Individual Member |
| Barbara Evelyn | Newport Pagnell Historical Society |
| Stephen Sleight | Marston Vale Community Rail |
| Tim Skelton | MK Forum |

APOLOGIES

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| Cheryl Butler (Exec) | Deanshanger Village Heritage Society |
| Chris Stapleton | North Crawley Historical Society |
| Alastair Inglis | Road Local History Society |

| Item | Matters Discussed | Action |
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| <p>1.0</p> <p>2.0</p> <p>3.0</p> <p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p> <p>4.9</p> <p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p> <p>4.13</p> <p>4.14</p> <p>4.15</p> <p>4.16</p> <p>4.17</p> <p>5.0</p> | <p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair, Robert, welcomed all to the online Zoom AGM.</p> <p><u>Minutes of the Last AGM</u></p> <p>Minutes from the last AGM dated 25th September 2019 were agreed & approved subject to minor amendments regarding the attendees. Proposed Dianne Sutton; 2nd Neil Louden.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Local Heritage List (paragraph 2.2) - It was noted that Simon Peart had assessed all nominations with a view to gaining authority for the first set of successful nominations in January 2021.</p> <p><u>Chairman's Report 2019 / 2020 (see full text circulated prior to meeting plus slide 4)</u></p> <p>Meetings – It had only been possible to run 2 member meetings since the last AGM due to COVID19;</p> <p>Heritage Open Days – covered under separate item;</p> <p>Communications with MK Council - covered under separate item;</p> <p>New Town Heritage Register - covered under separate item;</p> <p>Grants – Received and awarded. Grant procedure on hold due to COVID19 but a special grant of £1k had been received by MKHA to help through this difficult period. MKHA expressed thanks to Shane Downer. Archaeological Society grant in pipe line;</p> <p>MKHA Officer & Committee succession - Thanks was expressed to Dianne for her service to MKHA Executive Committee since 2002;</p> <p>ARCHMK – New archiving project -covered under separate item;</p> <p>Membership - It was noted that MKHA had a steady membership of 70 member organisations;</p> <p>MKHA Services - see report;</p> <p>Loan Equipment - see report;</p> <p>Information Sheets - see report;</p> <p>Speakers List - Thanks to Alan details of previous speakers are available through the website and links. Speakers from Family History Society may be willing to talk to non FHS groups;</p> <p>MKHA Websites - Thanks was expressed to Alan for everything he had been doing in this area and the MKHA Newsletter throughout this difficult time with COVID19;</p> <p>Transfer of sites to Wordpress - Alan was thanked for managing to transfer all bar one website to Wordpress to enable better access from hand held devices;</p> <p>MKHA Newsletter - see report;</p> <p>Discover Milton Keynes - see report;</p> <p>Other Activities - see full report.</p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report - Charlotte Hall (see full report circulated prior to meeting and slides 5 & 6)</u></p> <p>It was noted that MKHA had an overall balance of £26293.98 as of 31st August 2020. Thanks was expressed to the Auditor. MKHA is well placed to continue to support members. It was noted that there were still 7 outstanding membership fees to come in due to disruption because of COVID19. Also a couple of venues had been booked and paid for but not used due to COVID19. Treasurer is in touch with those venues.</p> <p>Treasurers Report was duly adopted. Proposed by Charlotte Hall; 2nd Robert Excell; Carried unanimously.</p> | <p>AC</p> |
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6.0

Election of Officers

It was noted that Dianne was stepping down from the Executive Committee (see above) which left two vacancies on the executive. All other members had agreed to stand and were reelected en bloc. Proposed by Dianna Sutton; 2nd by Tim Skelton.

Officers

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| Robert Excell | Chair | Individual Member |
| David Muston | Vice Chair | Calverton Records Project |
| Charlotte Hall | Treasurer | Woughton Heritage Group |
| Mike Wittle | Hon Secretary | St Mary's Church, Bletchley |
| Alan Cooper | Website & IT Technical Office | New Bradwell Heritage |

Executive Committee

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| Anna McEvoy | Stowe House Preservation Trust |
| Cheryl Butler | Deanshanger Village Heritage Society |
| Neil Loudon | Milton Keynes Museum Society |
| Catherine McIntyre | MK City Discovery Centre |

AGM CLOSED

7.0

A.o.B

7.1

Arch MK Report

Anna referred meeting to slides 8 & 9 of presentation to AGM...it was noted that £3700 had been granted for this project from the Community Foundation. Dr Ellie Pridgeon had been appointed as the Consultant Archivist. It was also noted that the foundation recognised that due to COVID19 the time scale of the project could be extended.

A brief discussion was held on what work could be done on-line and what could not.

7.2

MKC Heritage Report

Shane referred to his presentation for the AGM and slides 10 to 19.

Slide 11 - Business Programmes;

Slide 12 - Design City Strand;

Slide 13 - International Design City;

Slide 14 - Complimentary layers of time, identity and history;

Slide 15 - MK Futures 2050 Commission Report: Making a Great City Greater;

Slide 16 - A Festival of Creative Urban Living (2019);

Slide 17 - Milton Keynes - An International Demonstrator City;

Slide 18 - Milton Keynes Post COVID19 - the 15 Minute City;

Slide 19 - Thanks

Shane highlighted a number of points on his report:-

7.2.1

Slide 11 - It was noted that the 'Festival of History' has been moved to 2022. HODs will continue to go ahead in 2021 and it was noted that there was a record number of attendees in 2019. Bradwell Abbey project will be completed by end of 2021 with an additional £600,000 put into the project. The Great Linford Courtyard refurbishment was on track but it was recognised that this project was more longterm. H&S work had been completed.

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| | <p>It was noted that digital activity was here to stay and Shane expressed his thanks to Catherine for her contribution and help with this.</p> <p>Shane indicated that the City Archive & MK ARCH development plan was a much wider project and needed further work on the plan before it is completed. There was also a shortfall in funding that was not helped by the overall MK Council shortfall of £14 million which effectively meant that only existing projects can be completed and then there is likely to be a 12 month break in funding.</p> | |
| 7.2.2 | <p>Slide 12 - The 'Festival of Creative Urban Living' went well and various things were learnt that can be used in the running of a further festival of this nature.</p> <p>European City of Sport - one aspect was particularly highlighted that the walks are now available 365 days a year on a website.</p> <p>UK New Towns Days MK - This was a flagship event held at the beginning of the year with international importance.</p> <p>Homeworld Event - It was noted that the next events are expected to be held in May and September 2021.</p> | |
| 7.2.3 | <p>Slide 13 - It was noted that the 'International Design City' is getting traction.</p> | |
| 7.2.4 | <p>Slide 16 - It was noted that any future 'Festival of Urban Living' may well be impacted by COVID19.</p> | |
| 7.2.5 | <p>Slide 18 - It was noted that COVID19 had accelerated certain things in particular the idea of a linear park around and through the City Centre with more emphasis on creating a green city and decrease in car use. It was noted that 40% of MK was still available for development. It was hoped that a 'Town Deal' can be brokered with the Government in respect of Bletchley which is outside the 15 minute cycle limit of MK City Centre with fast rapid transport system.</p> | |
| 7.2.6 | <p>Questions & Answers - It was noted that MK Central Library was still closed and staff being used to assist with the MK Food Bank. Only the local libraries are open. Any transfer of documents between Aylesbury Records and MK Library was not yet possible currently.</p> <p>A number of questions were raised and answered in respect of the Festival of Urban Living and the anniversary of Homeworld next year.</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>HODs Debrief (slides 20 & 21)</p> <p>It was noted that attendees were a lot lower than in 2019 and a number of events had been cancelled due to COVID19 but the events that were held were in the main fully booked.</p> <p>The Great Linford team dressed in period costume.</p> <p>Overall given the difficult situation this year the event was a success.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>Members Reports (slides 24 -29)</p> | |
| 7.4.1 | <p>New Bradwell Heritage Group - It was noted that this group had been dissolved and re-formed itself as 'New Bradwell Heritage' with a new logo (see slide 25);</p> | |
| 7.4.2 | <p>Stowe House PT - It was noted that the house is currently closed to the public (COVID19) but scaffolding tours can be arranged (see slides 26 &27);</p> | |
| 7.4.3 | <p>DVHS - Litter picking continues - see slides 28 & 29;</p> | |

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| 7.5 | <u>Members Reports given on the night (not on slides)</u> | |
| 7.5.1 | Towcester & District Local History Society & Towcester Historic Survey - meetings were being held on Zoom. Brian offered to undertake online talks on the history and analysis of local historic buildings for groups if they are looking for a speaker. | BG |
| 7.5.2 | Newport Pagnell Historical Society - have been undertaking archiving work over lockdown as the museum is closed. Local historical walks have been undertaken. Meetings via Zoom have been mixed. | |
| 7.5.3 | St Marys Church, Bletchley - visiting the church has been very limited due to COVID19 so no formal program of opening has been possible. Digital documentation has been available online. Currently a new website is being compiled with the help of the archivist at the OU as part of a personal project. | |
| 7.5.4 | Marston Vale Community Rail - In July the Heritage Centre was opened again for 3 days per week and it is hoped to open 6 days per week from October 2020. | |
| 7.5.5 | Woughton Heritage Group - Currently concentrating on the archive and building a website. | |
| 7.5.6 | MK Forum - Currently concentrating on provision of walking tours. | |
| 7.5.7 | John Gosling - Currently concentrating on restoring the 'Old Phone Box'. If anyone can help with this or knows of anyone with knowledge how to restore such an item John would love to hear from them. | ALL |
| 7.5.8 | MK Museum Society - The museum is open but via pre-booked tickets only. | |
| 8.0 | <u>MEETING CLOSED</u> with thanks to Anna and David for providing Zoom link and power point display etc... | |
| <u>FINISH</u> | | |

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