

# MINUTES OF MEMBERS MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 24th MARCH 2022

## PRESENT

Robert Excell (Chair)	MKHA Chair / Individual Member
David Muston (Vice Chair)	Calverton Records Project
Mike Wittle (Hon. Sec.)	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Charlotte Hall (Treasurer)	Woughton Heritage Group
Alan Cooper (IT Officer)	New Bradwell Heritage
Neil Loudon (Exec)	Milton Keynes Museum Society
Anna McEvoy (Exec)	Stowe House Preservation Trust
Catherine McIntyre (Exec)	MK City Discovery Centre
Peter Barnes	Simpson Historical Society
Ron Johnson	RLHS Road
Athina Beckett	Buckingham Canal Society
Dianne Sutton	New Bradwell Heritage Group
Michael Held	TVAT
Steve & Deborah Snook	St Mary's Church, Bletchley

## APOLOGIES

None

### 1. Welcome

The Chair, Robert, welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of Virtual Members Meeting dated 13th January 2022

Agreed and noted.

### 3. Matters Arising

None

### 4. MKHA Committee Vacancies - (slide 5)

The Chair thanked Cheryl Butler who has been a long time member of MKHA representing Deanshanger Village Heritage Society and Minute Taker and member of the Exec Committee who has moving to Lincolnshire.

The Chair also thanked Mike Wittle, representing St Mary's Church, Bletchley and current Hon Secretary of MKHA who is also moving out of the area this May 2022.

The Chair highlighted that this will leave TWO vacancies on the MKHA Exec Committee. If anyone is willing to join the Exec of MKHA and /or take on the Hon Secretary post please will they contact the Chair, Robert Excell (*for more details around the vacancies see presentation slide 5*)

## **5. Arch-MK - Next Steps - (slides 6,7 & 8)**

### **5.1. Conclusion and Next Steps project plan:**

- Anna McEvoy coordinate and admin
  - Hold new Archives Workshop
  - Consider fortnightly surgeries (LA Hut / Zoom)
  - Robert Excell in support with MKM specialists
  - Replay Ellie Pridgeon's recordings for P2P sessions

The chair encourage each project group to mentor others and for members who did not take part in the initial workshops to attend the next workshop (*see 5.2 below*).

**5.2. New Archives Workshop** - Friday 22nd April 2022 from 10.00 am to 4 pm at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley MK3 6BJ

*NB: Please contact Robert Excell to book place - excellheritage@outlook.co*

Attendees are encouraged to bring individual objects for advice on handling, cleaning or repair and if possible catalogues or lists of their material – whether physical or on laptops.

*NB: See slide 8 for full program details*

It was noted that MKHA was able to provide financial grants to support members with such digital projects.

## **6. Council Grant & Report - (slide 9)**

Apologies from Shane Downer were noted and that he was away in Slovenia presenting to Nova Gorica new town sports and culture teams and that many MKC issues that Shane would normally report on are covered under later items in tonight's presentation.

## **7. Women's Euros - (slide 10)**

See slide 10 for details of events proposed around the 'Station Square' over the period of this National Event. Dates for MK being 8/7/22; 12/7/22; 16/7/22 and 27/7/22.

## **8. HoD's - (slides 11, 12 & 13)**

This years dates run from 9th to 18th September 2022.

The national theme is 'Astounding Inventions' somehow connected with somebody or something in your local area..... and if that cannot be found, an 'Heroic Failure' would also qualify!

***NB: Please note that MKHA can support your events with smaller 'easier access' grants for those who have been members for 18 months.***

*See slides for more details...and how to contact Rachel Chapman (co-ordinator of event across MK)*

## **9. Discover MK Exhibition space in CMK Library - (slide 14)**

It was noted that:-

Discover MK is still exhibiting in MK Central Library (despite 50% size reduction) but may be relocated within building;

Planned 15cu metres of archive storage for MKHA members but with some limitations due to Library internals being Gr.II listed; and

**MKHA members encouraged to submit ideas for future exhibitions and more heritage based events at library.**

## **10. New Town Heritage Register - (slide 15)**

Mk Council have confirmed MKHA is on the NTR Panel - *see slide for further details.*

## **11. Festival of History (slides 16 & 17 )**

- This is scheduled for the 10/11th June 2023.
- Existing funding has been ring-fenced with more sought. The event will emphasis 'Culture & Diversity' and be more inclusive.

## **12. Treasurers Report (slide 23)**

Banking / Money Matters: (as at 14/03/22)

TreasurersAccount : £15,691.31

Business Account : £3,436.10

Hampshire Account : £5,396.06 (23/01/22)

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Total: £24,523.47

## **13. Grants Report - (slides 19 & 20)**

### **13.1.CULTURE/HERITAGE GRANTS – PROGRAMMING Application for 2022-2023 submitted March 2022**

This application is for a small programme grant to be used and administered by MKHA to fund small scale heritage based projects undertaken by MKHA member groups.

*NB: MKHA members are asked to note that MKHA now aspires to all of the Council criteria across grants it offers to MKHA member groups.*

### **13.2. New Grants to Members**

New grant completion: Sherington Hist. Soc. – Reprint £680

New grant applications: 1 potential (yet to submit)

*NB: Grant applications are always encouraged particularly for supporting heritage events – HODS and Festival of History*

## **14.'EDI' - Discussion lead by Neil Loudon - (slides 21 to 30)**

This element of the evenings program took up some time. Details can be found in the accompanying slides. Neil skilfully took participants through the new strategic priorities of Milton Keynes' Creative and Cultural Strategy for 2022-23.

It was noted that all grant applications MUST demonstrate that they meet the Cultural Inclusion Priority (1) and at least one other of the following criteria (2 - 4):-

Cultural Inclusion and Diversity (slide 22) ; 2. Not Just Business as Usual (slide 23); 3. Collaborations and Partnership (slide 24); and 4. Working City-wide Cultural Offer (slide 25).

### **Neil further commented that (slide 26):-**

EDI means the whole community regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity or religious belief;

EDI ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all;

It aims to eradicate prejudice and discrimination on the basis of an individual or group of individual's protected characteristics;

That protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation; and

Allows fairness and opportunity within groups and engagement with community

### **Neil also indicated that:-**

MKHA and member organisations needed to reassess their policies and procedures in light of 'EDI' - (slides 27 & 28);

That future grants will also need to comply with 'EDI' - (slide 29). The KEY thing will be the 'wording used in grant applications'; and

### **That next steps for MKHA is (slide 30):-**

- MKHA policies and grant forms need to be reviewed and updated
- Small steps needed to encourage and support individual projects

*NB: It is worth noting that we cannot change the world overnight.*

### **COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS**

- Michael Held mentioned potential impact on local historical societies and changes within local areas and recent building developments etc...
- David Muston referred to disability walking groups, canal networks and potential well-being benefits...
- Athina Beckett / Dianne Sutton mentioned the Electra Walk and Ride Project along canal paths ensuring the canal paths are accessible...

### **15. Members Reports (slide 31)**

#### **15.1 Roade Local History Society - (slides 32 to 34)**

*See slides for details...*

One event coming up is the talk about 'Edgar Mobbs' the life and death of a Northampton sporting icon.

**A talk by Saints' historian and BBC commentator Graham McKechnie on 27th April 2022**

**15.2. Stowe House - (slide 35)**

It was noted that the restoration of the State Dining Room starts this August, with restoration of the over door panels of centaurs (copied from Herculaneum in 1750s) taking place from Easter.

Plus starting to run events again, such as roof top tours over Easter.

**15.3. TVAT - (no slide)**

Michael Held mentioned that they had received a small grant from a local counsellor which had been very useful.

**15.4 Buckingham Canal Society - (no slide)**

Athina mentioned that there was plenty of work being carried out on the canal, working parties around Cosgrove and other canal venues.

**16. A.o.B**

**16.1.** A brief discussion was had around the possible use of using 'Apps' or 'Pocket Apps' by member organisations - Michael Held and Charlotte Hall to action...

**16.2.** AGM date to be finalised and members informed ASAP.

**17. Next Members Meeting**

**The next members meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7pm (venue TBC)...**

**MEETING CONCLUDED**