

**AGM – 7.00pm Thursday 28 September 2023**

**Granary Tea Room, Milton Keynes Museum**

## **MINUTES (V5)**

### **1. Present**

Bill Griffiths	Director, MK Museum & President of MKHA
Dr Noël James	CEO. MK City Discovery Centre
David Muston	Vice -Chair, MKHA/Calverton Records Project
Stephen Kennedy	Sherington Historical Society
Oliver Powell	Sherington Historical Society
Stuart MacFarlan	Western Front Association MK
Ann McIntyre	Western Front Association MK
Tim Skelton	MK Forum
Neil Loudon	MKHA Exec/MK Museum
Lynne Cairns	Heritage MK
Anitra Bull	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Gill Kemp	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Sandra Horswood	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Steve Bacon	C.L.A.S.P Archaeology
Charlotte Hall	MKHA Treasurer/Woughton Heritage
Anna McEvoy	MKHA Exec/Stowe House Preservation Trust
Peter Sean	Newport Pagnell History Society
Roly Dogget	Bletchley Archaeological & History Society
Jim Mann	The National Badminton Museum
Alan Cooper	MKHA Exec (IT/Web), New Bradwell Heritage
Diane Roder	Milton Keynes Museum

### **Apologies Received**

Peter Barnes	Simpson & Ashland
Dianne Sutton	Bradwell Parish Heritage Group
Shane Downer	Milton Keynes City Council (Report submitted)

Chris Stapleton	North Crawley
Rachel Fleet	Living Archive MK (Report submitted)
Graham Thorpe	Deanshanger Village Historical Society
Sue Crabbe	Bletchley Archaeological & Historical Society
Roger Emery	Wolverton & District Historical & Society

The meeting began with a welcome from **Bill Griffiths** who outlined the plans for the new MK Museum galleries which will tell the 'history' of the City. From the archaeological history, through to the 'New Town development from 1967.

The Story of Milton Keynes will be told by its people and will cover everything from fashion to food, from music and memories to the current City.

Guest Speaker **Dr Noël James** outlined the work she and her archivist **Catherine McIntyre** had been doing for the '**Good City Project**'.

They have been gathering information, memories and documents by engaging with local people both young and old, through informal Supper Clubs, workshops and Drop-In sessions.

This work will support and help scope the exhibitions in the new galleries at the Museum and elsewhere.

## 2. **Approval of AGM minutes of 22nd September 2022.**

Electronic copies had been provided before the meeting and these were agreed by the members present as true and accurate record.

## 3. **Matters Arising**

None that were not covered by the rest of the agenda.

## 4. **Chairman's Report 2022 – 2023**

David Muston delivered the report, as he had been covering the role on an acting basis since Robert Excell's untimely death.

As a precursor to a new document which was being drawn up to set out MKHA's 'Remit', he reviewed the various activities initiated by the Heritage Association since its formation.

These included:

- IT training for website design and production
- Audience development (including outreach to other communities)

- Education and Training
- Liaising with schools (*Young Heritage Hunters*)
- Promoting 'Heritage' events - (*Festival of History*)
- Supporting *Heritage Open Days*
- Addressing the 'Archives issue' – *ArchMK* (current project)

Looking more to the future, he pointed out that MKHA are considering further Ideas to promote history and heritage:

- Taking part in MKCC *Archaeology Day* (Nov)
- Organising a '*History Day workshop*' next spring (on similar lines to *Archaeology Day*)
- Maintaining interest in any future *Festivals of History*.

All of these could be supported with targeted grant aid to members in addition to our usual project grants.

In terms of putting our own house in order, work had already started on overhauling MKHA's own Corporate Identity (an initial draft of which had been used at the head of this document and on the accompanying slide presentation).

His report concluded with a more concerning task brought about by the ageing profiles of a number of member groups which the Association was supporting to help resolve their current challenges of:

- Ageing demographics
- Shrinking committees
- Falling member rolls
- Financial viability
- Maintenance of interest

This issue had been undoubtedly exacerbated by COVID and the Association was committed to keeping such groups viable as there is little doubt that positive interests aligned to social engagement do much to aid our health and well-being. (This factor is also one of the conditions made by the MKCC in its grant application forms).

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Charlotte Hall presented a Summary Statement of Account showing a satisfactory year-end balance of £33,133.87 for the 2022-23 year. This was approved by the meeting subject to final independent examination.

There was a steady flow of grants being awarded but more applications were invited.

Further grant money provision is set aside to cover archiving materials for the recently completed 2023 round of *ArchMK*.

Charlotte confirmed that membership subscriptions to MKHA would remain unchanged at:

- Group membership £10 p.a.
- Individual membership £ 5 p.a.

However there would be a modest £5 increase to Web-hosting costs:

- Web Hosting £25 p.a.

## **6. Election of Officers/Executive Committee**

No nominations had been received for any Executive Committee positions prior to the meeting and as all current officers and members of the Executive Committee were prepared to stand again, they were re-elected enbloc with the following exceptions. David Muston (Vice Chair) had taken over as Acting Chair since Robert's death and was proposed as Chair together with Neil Loudon (as a previous committee member) as Vice Chair.

Both positions were proposed by Tim Skelton and seconded by Roly Dogget and agreed by the meeting.

The position of Secretary remained unfilled and open.

Graham Thorpe (DVHS) would continue as a co-opted member subject to his agreement.

## **7. Approval of MKHA's updated Constitution and Policy Documents**

Neil Loudon explained that all of MKHA's formal policy documents had been subject to review resulting in some minor amendments to aid version control. These had been circulated to the membership electronically prior to the meeting and no further amendments had been suggested or received. The following documents were agreed by the members and would be signed off at the date of this AGM (28/0/2023) as the latest official versions.

- Constitution
- Child protection policy
- Data protection policy
- Education policy
- Equality, diversity and Inclusivity policy
- Health and safety policy

## **8. Robert Excell Heritage Award**

Neil Loudon confirmed that the proposal put forward at the last members meeting to hold an annual Heritage Award of £500 to be given as a fitting tribute to our late Chair, Robert Excell for his tireless work to further heritage interests in the Milton Keynes area, had been agreed by the Executive. This would be given annually for the best work completed by a heritage organisation, society, or individual over the past year.

The meeting agreed and accepted the proposal. Neil distributed the terms and conditions\* for the award, the first of which would be presented at the AGM in September 2024.

\*Also available online.

There being no AOB items raised or submitted, this concluded the AGM.

### **Other Business**

The record of the other business of the meeting can be seen on the accompanying copy of the presentation given on that evening and covered:

- **Marketing and publicising your activities with Grant help** – Neil Loudon
- **Milton Keynes Heritage Officer’s Report** – David Muston pp Shane Downer
- **HODs debrief** – David Muston pp Rachel Fleet
- **Arch MK report** – David Muston
- **New Town’s Heritage Register**– Tim Skelton
- **Web/IT report** – Alan Cooper
- **Member reports** –
  - **Deanshanger Village History Society** – Sandra Horswood
  - **Western Front** - Anne McIntyre

Bill Griffiths was thanked for providing the venue, Dianne Roder for providing the refreshments, and Lynne Cairns for taking the minutes.

**The meeting concluded at 9.00pm**