

Minutes of the WAS Committee Meeting held on Tuesday September 17th 2024

Present: Keith Bolton (on phone), Sarah Brewer, Amie Friend, Theresa Griffiths, Cheryl Hutchins, Liz Lane, John Mills, Connie Shirley, Gill Turner.

1. Apologies: Alan Beazley, Patricia Leming, Vicky Lillywhite, Jennie Williamson, Donna Wiltshire.

2/3. Minutes/matters arising – taken as we go.

4. GDPR - Treasurer details changed online.

5. Trustees - Nothing to report.

6. a) Whitehouse – some digging last week – Connie brought some of the Finds – under area of burning there seems to be a well. Flint-lined? Should we excavate the well? A 1-week dig on a 2x2 trench – or a series of Fridays. Need access to field though. Connie will talk to Mark. Keep kit in Connie's garage. Section the foundation trench? Connie is trying to write up the Report.

b) Sullington Warren - Keith's update/first cut of Report done. Doing desk-top research – needs to see James Brown re N.T. Archive.

c) Burpham Big Dig – Connie is doing total station analysis for trenches A and C. Theresa's work to be inked up. Compare trench B profile with A and C ditch. John has done a location plan for trench B and is now drawing up section drawings.

Keith and James to re-engage with Trevor and Karen re parking if we go back in the Spring. Long discussion on how many and what size trenches. Keith proposes 2 to include all those folk who would want to be involved. We have to respect the saplings which have been planted.

Finds being processed.

d) Slindon – from Keith. David Chuter is interested in doing some geophys e.g. on Queen's Field where there is a sign of a rectangular enclosure from aerial photos. Also Warren Field - ?banjo enclosure. The N.T. Volunteers have been trained with the N.T. kit.

There is a new N.T. Assistant Business Service Co-ordinator – contact?

Donna mentioned long-term Finds storage – unlikely to happen – cost, policy....

e) Climping – John hasn't been down for ages, meeting Bill W there on Friday for update. They have a WhatsApp Group. There are some big tidal range days coming up. John will update us.

The Prehistoric pottery has gone to Paul Garwood at Birmingham Uni.

The urn is now in L'hampton Museum where it will stay. All bills settled, thanks to Bill Watkins. Will Bill write a report for the Journal?

(Gill shared the excavation report at Thursday's Finds – would probably be enough).

f) Binsted Pottery and Tile Kiln Report – is now in draft form. Gill/Bob seeing Ben on Thursday. Ben wants Bob to redraw one of Con's drawings. Ben wanted to acknowledge in his Report every single member who took part – Gill has made list- 35!

g) Sompting Church – John has had photos from the 1970s from Judy Excell – from a tomb found in a coffin in the Hospitallers' Chapel. John has contacted Mike re meeting, no response so far. Keith can do Mondays or Fridays.

h) Geophysics at Bignor – will focus on the field North of the scheduled area. David Staveley – 5th/6th October (with 12th/13th if needed) booked. Needs a team of 4 to 6 to assist. Mag or GPR. Keith will assemble a team, e.g. Sarah, Phil, Alan, Theresa....

7. Finance – Alan sent a very good full account of WAS finances. Why 3 Bank Accounts – historically there were 5 or 6... The Charity a/c has better interest than HSBC. WAS wanted an a/c that we could manage locally.

There would be no argument from us if this changes – agenda for next Committee Meeting?

HSBC account now via Internet & Telephone Banking.

BACs payments made by 2-level authorisation – Treasurer initiates, Membership Sec. authorises.

8. Membership. Some increase due to Burpham B D.

100 people have paid in 2024; 19 paid 2023, not 2024; 14 Life Members and 19 Hon. Total 152.

9. Newsletter : would be good to have someone write a brief general account of the Burpham Big Dig. Liz to ask Clare.....or

Anything for the N'letter ASAP please.

Journal: Alex has done 1 page. Alan King has done part 1 of his article on Patching & Arundel – 8 pages. John has promised an article on Sompting. Something from the Research Group? Something on Sullington Warren? – an article, not the Report.

10. First Aid Training. WAS will pay as we should always have a First Aider on site. Theresa, Sarah, Amie and Chris L so far. Monday September 30th.

Amie will check whether her First Aid for children covers all schools.

11. Dropbox – Amie putting training together – Nov 2nd. Business package - £432 per year. (About 20% of our income) Is the basic package too basic? Is it going to be our main storage facility – we do need an electronic means of storage, have no policy on this yet. Long discussion. Sub-group suggested to work on it. If interested, email Keith.

Nov 2nd Amie will show how to use it, as package won't be set up by then.

12. Study Days – Luke Barber Oct 26th on Medieval Pottery; Simon Stevens on Post-Med Sussex 23rd November; Luke Barber Post-Med Pottery 18th January. We'll discuss 2025 plans next time.

Photography day not happening – too expensive.

13. Lectures – advertised on WAS Facebook and website, will be in Newsletter. James S October on Highdown, Geoff Mead November and Laurence Shaw December.

14. Flint Project - restarts Wednesday Sept 25th, then October 23rd, then every 2 weeks.

15. Charity Commission – nothing to report.

16. Other events - WAS Social booked for Friday November 8th – Black Horse Findon.

19th October – guided walk around Petworth Park with Henry W.

2025 – get Henry's Petworth town walk rebooked. Arrange a Highdown walk with James S.

17. Website – is being updated. Membership Form and Standing Order forms need updating – Theresa/Richard don't have the originals to update. Please would you check pdf documents if you sent them. Cheryl/Liz will update Committee roles list.

18. WHA – v successful event in Heritage Festival this year. Repeat in 2025?
Agreed.

19. Books – agreed we will continue to have a bookstall at Lectures, but we'll say to people that if they want to donate books, they must take them back if they don't go.

Books from Connie for WAS archive are with Keith and Donna, will eventually go to be stored in the Slindon shed.

20. AOB – Liz – rang John Green who is very positive, still doing research at Record Office. Gave him our regards, keeping him on N'letter list.

21. Next Meeting -Tuesday 21st January.