

Minutes of the WAS Committee Meeting on Tuesday March 19th 2024

Present: Keith Bolton (by phone), Alan Beazley, Sarah Brewer, Theresa Griffiths, Cheryl Hutchins, Liz Lane, Patricia Leming, John Mills, Donna Wiltshire.

1. Welcome to Sarah, and to Alan in his new role as Treasurer.
2. Apologies – Amie Friend, Vicky Lillywhite, Connie Shirley, Gill Turner, Jennie Williamson.
3. Minutes of the last Meeting and
4. Matters arising Worthing Heritage Festival – June 15th.
5. GDPR – nothing to report.
6. Trustees – Alan - Charity Commission needs to be updated, Sarah added. Alan will send emails to all.
7. Field Unit Update: a) Malthouse/Whitehouse –Fieldwalk Report now proof-read, 66 pages. Connie has sent Report to Mike Tristram. Thanks very much to all those who were involved, especially Connie, Gill and Bob. b) Sullington Warren: Site visit at 11am on Saturday April 5th – see Keith's emails. ?Church car park.
c) Burpham – James has organised, with Keith, a 'Training Day' for the village. 10am in the Village Hall on Saturday June 1st. There were 4 folk who volunteered to be there: Alan, Cheryl, John and Theresa. There will be an intro by James, then talk of how by Keith, then a 1m² test pit dug in a nearby garden. Keith said we'd be using the Walberton Big Dig material. Cheryl offered to explain the Finds process.
d) Slindon Finds at the shed: 4th, 18th April and 16th May (2nd cancelled, Sullington dig.)
e) Climping: urn – John updated us – X-ray has been done at Fishbourne, ASE now has urn to micro-excavate. Discussion of photo to Facebook - have Bill's pic.(discussion at Finds agreed not to put on Facebook as human remains.) At Climping the well-top recently seen by Bill and John has gone – the lower part now covered in sand.
8. Finance: 3-monthly sheet issued by Patricia. Subs slightly up, as well as donations. Day Schools up (due to Simon's). Room hiring costing more. We must be very firm about leaving the Library by 9 – to be mentioned in the Introduction to Lectures. Insurance and Trustees up slightly. We are just in the black. Patricia and Alan meeting for Handover on Friday. Patricia will do the Insurance until the next AGM.
9. Study Days Review: we do need to at least break even, better to show a profit... For WAS Member Presenters we should have a different remuneration model than for external folk. We need 13- 17 people to break even. Limit payment for WAS Presenters to £100 for a whole day, regardless of how many sign up – proposed by Keith. We need an agreement for every session (for the Charity Commission) Donna discusses fees initially with Speakers – they do need to be paid for preparation, etc. So: as soon as we have booked a day, send a 'save-the-date' to all Members. Maybe look to advertise in Sussex Past and Present WAS is an Institutional Member of SAS. Already in CBA S.E. monthly updates. John Funnell advertises us in the BHAS weekly update. Investigate Inside series of magazines?
10. Membership: to date 71 people have paid 2024 subs. 34 paid in 2023, not yet in 2024. There are 20 Hon and 14 Life Members. Total 139.
Bill Watkins is paying for all the post-excavation work on the urn. WAS would like to make him an Hon member. John to draft something to send, and liaise with Keith.
Chris Wild – a useful contact with Media? Possibly set up a small group to discuss publicity?

11. Newsletter to be sent out next Wednesday – anything for it, ASAP please. Journal – ongoing.
12. Study Days: 13th April Artefact Illustration presented by Bob Turner. Worthing Museum.
26th October at the Museum. Medieval Pottery presented by Luke Barber. 23rd
November at the Museum. Post-Medieval Sussex presented by Simon Stevens. In
January John will give us a day on Desktop Research.
13. Lectures: Organised for the rest of the year – on website, and on leaflet, thanks Theresa.
We also have 2 walks: April 27th Petworth, Henry. 21st September Simon in Lewes.
Visiting other digs? BHAS Rocky Clump? (Liz to enquire).
14. Flint Project at Museum: Next Wednesday, March 27th, and Wednesday April 24th for
everyone, plus a limited session on April 10th.
15. Charity Commission Policies: They have a new website. Alan is now registered as a User. No
new policies. He will update.
16. WHA/WAS at Museum 10.30am to 3.30pm, June 15th – need to publicise this more – and get
the handling collection back from Amie. Liz to put down all we need to say on a poster,
Theresa offered to design one.
17. Other events: 16th May installation of John Pull blue plaque on the South wall of the Museum.
WAS to donate £30 towards the cost.
Sompting Old May 5th – WAS will have a stall.
Binsted Strawberry Fayre in July, WAS to be there.
18. Website: any suggestions/changes, email Theresa There are now cookies on the website so
WAS is compliant with EU law. Many thanks to Theresa and Richard for their hard work on all
of this. Theresa read us some statistics about use, e.g. our Events page was viewed 76%
more this month than last.
19. AOB: Liz Somerville borrowed a skull from the Sompting Church dig (1976) from Con in about
1990 as a teaching aid, and it is currently in Barbican House. Discussion on trying to organise
re-burial in the Church – and also of the bones from Con's Collection in the Museum. We need
to find out whether there's a charge for re-burial. John to try to contact the Churchwardens.
Donna reminded us that we need to mention the 2025 subs increase in the next N'letter. (Will
be done – and in all 2024 Newsletters..)
20. Date of next Meeting: Tuesday June 4th.