

## **Bawtry Heritage Group**

### **Notes of a Trustees' meeting on Wednesday 21 September 2022**

#### **1. Present & Apologies**

**Present** - Steve Fish, Peter Holland, John Linsley, David Kirkham, Mick Maguire, Tony Jones

#### **2. Matters arising from 23 August meeting (i.e. those not covered by the agenda)**

##### **i) Nominations to the South Yorkshire Heritage List**

Work ongoing. TJ to do history of education in Bawtry rather than the wharf.

##### **ii) Logo**

SF obtaining.

#### **3. Bid to the FCC to fund conversion of the women's toilets building to a HC.**

We have been unsuccessful. FCC informed us we scored 20 on their bid rating system; the threshold for funding was 21. They had 3 concerns about our proposal:

- i) Bawtry has other community places to meet in Bawtry – how well would the HC be used?
- ii) What was the long term sustainability of the HC? Would we find sufficient volunteers to operate the HC?
- iii) The 'short' lease term and the break clauses.

#### **4. Buildings lease**

We agreed it would be completely unrealistic to harbour any thoughts of trying to convert the toilets building without the FCC grant. There may be interest in the buildings from other individuals or groups in the town & they may wish to take the lease – but we concluded BHG keeping the lease to address such possibilities would give no advantage to such parties & would simply leave BHG carrying expenses & risks. Therefore we agreed to terminate the lease as soon as possible. DMBC could hold us to waiting until the next break date (November 2023 but with 3 months' notice) but this is thought unlikely.

#### **5. Project donors**

Now neither element of this specific project is deliverable, we agreed we must offer to return all donations made to us in our fund raising campaign. Major donors (£100 plus) to be written to; rely upon a Notice in Bawtry Today for everyone else. DK to circulate drafts of both. We anticipate not all donors will require refunds; we will probably be left with some funds.

## **6. BHG in the future**

Although disappointing, FCC's decision has a positive flip side – we can start to plan presenting some of Bawtry's heritage to the town, rather than being wholly consumed by project work. Several ideas about how to progress now; availability of funds permitting:

### **i) Create a BHG website**

Agreed this was a very high priority. Must be attractive, cohesive & easy to use. Homepage (with our logo) to include a "News/events" portal. Tabs to include history reference material (actual publications where possible; links where not), history "chapters" to include visual & oral material & a gazetteer of the town's important buildings/sites, a gallery, "partnership" links, BHG business documents, membership, meeting agendas & notes of meetings. Ideally site functionality to include a donations portal, a sales portal, & a "chat" facility. We need a professional to create it & probably to help maintain it. TJ & DK have possible relevant contacts.

### **ii) Augment the Town Trail with way points at significant sites.**

Affix plaques to walls etc. Each with 4 elements – our logo, a QR code for further information, material targeted on adults & material targeted on children. Early site candidates might be the wharf, Bawtry Hall (in the Market Place), & the Battle of the Idle (on the railway bridge).

### **iii) Plan & write papers on aspects of Bawtry's history.**

### **iv) Make lots of submissions to South Yorkshire Heritage List.**

With some adaptation these can also be used on the website & in talks.

### **v) Obtain portable display & presentation equipment**

e.g. laptop, printer, digital projector & screen; pop up display screens as used in the library etc..

### **vi) Plan & deliver events**

i.e. talks etc., like our "Romans" event last year. Various premises available – Phoenix Theatre, New Hall, Library?

## **7. Fundraising**

### **i) Phoenix BHG auction**

Without the project as a specific focus, agreed to defer for a year.

### **ii) Garfield Weston grant**

GW offered us £12k conditional on getting the FCC grant, for ancillary equipment etc.. Given our plans, might they be amenable to giving us this in whole or part? JL to contact GW.

### **iii) Gift Aid**

Defer submissions to HMRC until we know where we stand with refund requests.

## **8. AOB**

### **i) BHG's Facebook page & email account**

Following ES's resignation, MM agreed to look after the email account. No immediate solution to maintaining the Facebook page. (But JL found a volunteer after the meeting.)

**ii) Market Cross**

Works, commissioned by BTC, have commenced.

**9. Next meeting**

Business meeting - Tuesday 1 November – 18.30, Phoenix Theatre

Open meeting – “Romans Part 2” – Tuesday 10 January 2023 – 18.30, Phoenix Theatre