

## **Bawtry Heritage Group**

### **Notes of meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

#### **1 Present/Apologies**

Present – Mick Maguire, John Linsley, Kevin Gilfedder, Leslie Gilfedder, Rupert Atkinson, David Kirkham

Apologies - Peter Holland, Mike White

#### **2 Matters arising from 9<sup>th</sup> July meeting**

**Garfield Weston grant** – extension to 31 Aug 2025 granted.

**CDC Heritage Microgrant application** – successful - £500 for data projector.

**Bawtry Festival – guided walks** – we failed to advertise an August guided walk in Bawtry Today – therefore not happening.

**Essay/art competition** – judging completed; prizes awarded to winners. Next year we will encourage children use our website for inspiration & material, so essays submitted will be more relevant to Bawtry's history.

**Toll Gate Keeper paper** – now on website.

**BCL BHG display** – MM meeting with BCL trustees tba. MM to sound them out re our mounting heritage display panels on the external wall facing Doncaster Rd as opposed to on free standing lecterns because of the much greater cost of the latter. Also re connecting our laptop to the CDC internet system rather than the public one – for ease of use.

Mouse for laptop ordered.

**CDC new Conservation Officer** – response awaited re invitation to meet.

#### **3 Website**

##### **New material for “News & Events” page**

There was none.

##### **Website metrics**

Discussed several Google Analytics reports previously circulated. The headline statistic of 959 different users in the year since we went “live” at first felt disappointing – but the fact is that the website has engaged us with the vast majority of 959 people who we would not have otherwise done so.

The shape of the new users graph holds an important lesson for us – most of the users visited the site in the very early days, doubtless as a result of the modest publicity surrounding its launch. So publicity pays! Agreed we need to refer to the website & give its address in all our transactions/communications. Visit Bawtry has agreed to publicise the website for us, & once our Facebook page is revived that will help too. JL has negotiated that Lorna Bagilhole, the Bawtry Community Connector, will help us with that. Agreed that all “News & Events” material posted on the website should also go onto the Facebook page. JL agreed to liaise with Lorna.

Two specific questions for Keith re the metrics – what is the “event name” of “file downloads”, what is “user stickiness” – both in the overview report.

Agreed we should review the website metrics again in 6 months.

#### **4 The Hunt for Roman Bawtry – update**

MM updated us on progress. Desk top review about three quarters completed. It has demonstrated that there was substantial agricultural activity around Bawtry – particularly to the north - evidenced by numerous field boundaries & small enclosures. These are probably of iron age origin, but doubtless quite intensive farming continued through Roman times. Given its road & river connectivity, Bawtry would have been a logical place for marketing agricultural produce, revenue collection etc.. The desktop aims to identify say 10 sites for further review/investigation – e.g. by field walking or metal detecting – subject to gaining the land owners’ agreement - which could be difficult. Agreed our strategy with the metal detectorists (UK Metal Detecting Days) should be to identify potential sites of interest & for them to seek permissions.

UKMDD to meet with us on 8 October. MM has proposed the agenda for that meeting, as follows:

- The science – how it works, depth, range, terrain limitations
- Exposing finds – plotting, recording, ground restoration
- Finds management – identification (we want PAS to be involved), ownership & retention rights, legislative requirements, recording & reporting in the public environment
- Compiling & obtaining permissions

Agreed that we need to bear in mind that if anything goes wrong with a metal detecting event not only would UKMDD’s reputation be damaged but ours too.

MM invited CDC & SY Archaeological Service to the meeting. They are interested but will not attend.

#### **5 Wharf display lectern**

DK provided update. Planning permission granted & DK is in conversation with supplier. DK providing material (Margaret Clarkson’s painting & material from the wharf history paper) but we will use the supplier’s design team to arrange it etc. Total supply & delivery cost will be £1650, plus installation which we will need to arrange.

#### **6 AOB**

##### **“Meet the Funder” event re The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

RA interested in attending. DK will forward details to him.

##### **“Welcome to Yorkshire” website**

This featured “10 Facts about Bawtry”; one being that there was a settlement here in Roman times known as “Babtree”. An Air Cadet submitted an essay to our competition quoting this “fact”. It’s origin is not known. MM contacted the website owner & the “fact” has been removed.

#### **7 Next meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 18.30 at New Hall. UKMDD to attend.