

Observatory Group Meeting

07-06-2019

Present :- Richard Young (RY), Joan Brame (JB), Roy Proctor (RP), Margaret Charlesworth (MC), Phil Leigh (PL), Linda Harper (notetaker)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

RY welcomed everyone, noted apologies received from Lloyd Hughes.

2. Notes from last meeting 26/4/19

Agreed as an accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Matters arising other than those on Agenda

Nothing to report.

4. Bury Town Trust

On 1st July the Trust have organised an evening of talks . One of which is to be on the Observatory Restoration Project and will be presented by RY. (The second talk is around the trusts new project at 11 Higher Baxter Street). An e-mail has been sent to all AAA members advising of the event.

MoU progress :- RY distributed a draft copy of the MoU to the group. It has been seen by the AAA committee and comments have been made. In particular the AAA Treasurer has asked for several points to be addressed and amended.

MC raised a point regarding the transfer of funds to the AAA, as BTT will hold the funds should they pay any invoices to WSC which will mean that no VAT will be incurred as WSC will be able to claim back any VAT paid. (Due to BTT having Charitable status).

MC and RP raised concerns that the MoU was being made too complicated, MC will speak to Treasurer of BTT when she next sees him for clarification.

RP asked if the AAA are happy with employing an Architect, PL thought not entirely and that there was still some debate as to the need as we are governed by WSC and the Conservation Officer.

One thought was that an Architect working with WSC would take some pressure off the Restoration Group.

5. Communications with Damien Parker

RY has written to him to ask:-

- i) What progress has been made regarding the length of the licence agreement.
- ii) Issue of Health and Safety Improvements to Observatory Entrance.

RY has been advised that there is to be an inspection of the roof space of the Athenaeum, he has asked that the Observatory be included in this. Hopefully this inspection will result in a full mapping of the space which can then be used to plan the exact work that needs to be done to the entrance which can be agreed by all parties.

- iii) Issue of Management of Observatory post restoration.

The restoration plan which was circulated at the last meeting has not yet been sent to Damien Parker

6. Health and Safety Assessment

RY distributed a draft document for Health and Safety procedures which needs to be in place within 1 month of the completion of phase 1 of the restoration work. RY also circulated a copy of the Athenaeum Evacuation Procedure, this would need refining for Observatory use.

There followed lengthy discussion in the group around the issue of how a casualty could be evacuated from the Observatory in the case of a medical emergency. Suggestions included a possible assessment by the Fire service, the use of Evac chair, PL suggested a training session with members to test out.

RY asked the group to notify him of any further points that should be included in this document.

7. Future of Observatory Group meetings

RY asked the group members for their opinions on the frequency of meetings, all present agreed that they should remain at monthly intervals especially whilst the current issues are ongoing and work not yet started.

8. Silk Donation

RY has been given a gift-box by his sister-in-law, it contains silk items from Vanners. RY asked for ideas on how best to use it, (auction, raffle etc) with proceeds to go towards the Restoration fund.

9. AOB

JB reported that she has approached the Secretary of the Athenaeum Club to see if they would be willing to release the donation promised for the Restoration Project now that some work has been done within the Observatory entrance.

It is thought they may not be aware that this has taken place and that other expenses such as the Insurance have been paid and so knowing this, would they be willing to release the £1000.

Date of next meeting:- Friday 12th July at 7.30pm

