

Observatory Group Meeting

12-07-2019

Present :- Richard Young (RY), Joan Brame (JB), Roy Proctor (RP), Margaret Charlesworth (MC), Lloyd Hughes (LH), Linda Harper (notetaker)

In attendance – Peter Riddington, Chairman – Bury Town Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

RY welcomed everyone and introduced Peter Riddington from Bury Town Trust.
Noted apologies received from Phil Leigh.

2. Notes from last meeting 07/06/19

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

RY gave his presentation on the Restoration Project to the members of Bury Town Trust on 1st July. It was well received.

At the same meeting the MoU between the AAA and BTT was signed by both Chairmen. Once the licence agreement between AAA and WSC is signed then the MoU will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

5. Communications with Damien Parker

RY has finally managed to speak to Damien Parker by telephone.

The issues remain the same, those being the work to the entrance and the length of the licence agreement.

Damien has now asked that the group write to him with details of what proposed revisions to the licence we would want. These would include a change to paragraph 3.4.6 – Proposal that 4 persons be allowed up at a time along with guide from AAA.

Another point is that of safety when the AAA are escorting visitors concerned with the restoration up to the Observatory, it has been agreed that we will recruit members of the AAA who will be trained to act as a downstairs contact (via walkie-talkie) whilst these

visits are taking place.

Damien has also asked for a form of words to be supplied by the group regarding the wording of the length of the licence and what will happen at the end of the 2 years. General thought was that the advice of a solicitor should be sought.

RY agreed to send copy of draft licence to John Popham from BTT for him to look over and advise.

6. Health and Safety Assessment

RY has made some amendments to the draft document distributed at last meeting.

Peter Riddington suggested that Damien Parker be asked to supply copies of all H&S documents currently in effect at the Athenaeum, this would avoid duplication of procedures currently in place, the Observatory document would be then be an addendum to these.

7. The Dome

There has been no contact with the Millwrights. As RY has been advised by Damien that a survey of the Athenaeum roof space is planned and RY asking that the Observatory be included in this, it was felt that nothing further be done until the result of survey are known or RY is advised of any changes to this.

8. AOB

Although not raised in AOB there was discussion in the group about possible avenues to explore for further donations.

Suggestions included the Bury Society, Town Council through locality budgets and JB mentioned an article in the Bury Free Press concerning Community Chest grants she will forward details onto RP for further research.

Date of next meeting:- Friday 16th August at 7.30pm

