

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING : MINUTES

Registered Charity no. 1166580

- Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Venue:** By Zoom
- Present:** Andrew Booton (AB – Chair), Peter Sayers (PS – Vice Chair), Mike Richardson (MR – Secretary), Claire Attenborough (CA – Treasurer), Sarah Harvey (SH), Steve Bryson (SB), Tess Beck (TB)
- Apologies:** Hugh Curran (HC),
- Next Meeting:** 5pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

ITEM	ACTION
<b>1. Introduction</b>	
The Chair thanked everybody who had helped with the Annual General Meeting. Feedback from members had been very good and the discussion was positive. The main effort of this meeting is to get the Town Centre Manifesto off the ground. Reaction to the document has been positive with good of publicity from the media. It is clear to all observers and stakeholders that the Society is on the front foot, proactive and with good ideas.	
<b>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
2.1. The minutes were approved.	
<b>3 Matters arising</b>	
3.1 Work on the Landsdown Industrial Estate and temporary structures proposals have slipped back as the Town Centre manifesto is taking priority. The Victorian Society is keen to work with us on Landsdown. Reports from others suggest the investors have recognized they may need to reconsider due to the negative feedback.	
3.2 We need to push for more contributors to our publications. Interesting photographs with captions will be welcomed. Copy deadline for the next Our Town is 20 <sup>th</sup> June.	All

3.3 All Blue Plaques have been fitted. Recording them into an electronic self-guided tour is the next step. PR

#### 4. Finance

The Treasurer has finalised the costs of Parmoor House. Payment for Westminster House has been transferred to Willans' suspense account, to await completion of the purchase.

#### 5. Updates

##### 5.1 Campaigns

The Town Centre Manifesto has received lots of comments and support; it has clearly caught public attention. Our target is to achieve at least base line standards. A number of councillors have indicated that they would like to issue an invitation for CCS to address the full Council about the Town Centre  
AB/HC

A 'Birthday Party' for the fourth anniversary of Sports Direct closing down will be an opportunity for publicity about the state of the town centre.

Heritage Groups have been impressed by our work on the Landsdown Estate. Other groups will be engaged, including Chester Civic Society.

The Open meeting on The Minster produced some interest from the town. We need to work hard to increase involvement. HC/PS

AB attended a meeting with the Diocese, Cheltenham Borough Council, the Church and the Police following vandalism on the Church to discuss an action plan to reduce antisocial behaviour. AB will talk to the Police and Crime Commissioner (CCS member) about the gap between police activity and the PCC's intent. AB

Planning Permission has been applied for the Cambray proposals which will be renamed on the application as Cambray Riverside.

##### 5.2 Comms

The Echo has not given coverage on the Cambray planning application. It is very slow to pick up on many of our successes and other developments and proposals in the town

Publicity on the purchase of Westminster House linked with a farewell to Parmoor House is prepared ready for completion of the purchase. SB

We received a flow of ideas for the Town Centre following the article in Our Town.

### 5.3 **Events**

Details of the next Heritage Walk on 4<sup>th</sup> July will be given to SB SH

We must ensure we are taking ideas from the wider membership. Arrangements are being made for an open forum in August for Civic Society members to give their views and concerns. We should do this no more than twice a year. SSG is looking to meet informally regularly to keep dialogue open. SH

### 5.4 **HODs**

The Heritage Open Days programme will be launched in July. Events for the autumn are being planned including talks from Cheltenham Bid and Civic Voice.

### 5.5 **Planning Forum**

The Planning Forum refused to endorse the Clarence Fountain works as it appeared to be a fait accompli and the designs just were not of a high enough standard. Importantly the Forum did not feel able to endorse an ad-hoc scheme that further exposed the lack of a town centre overall plan.

The new Planning Bill appears to have considered comments on the Planning White Paper. The Planning Forum is waiting for more information to be published.

## 6. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 5pm.

Note: this is a change from the previously proposed date

Agreed dates for future meetings (all on Mondays) during 2022 are:

11<sup>th</sup> July  
19<sup>th</sup> September  
28<sup>th</sup> November