



ST ALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 574th meeting of Council, held at Sandridge Gate and online

on 12 September 2023

Present: John Morewood (JoMo) (President), Tony Berk (TB), Tim Boatswain (TBo), Peter Bourton (PBo), Pat Broad (PBr), Tony Dolphin (TD), Gill Girdziusz (GG), Bryan Hanlon (BH) Caroline Howkins (CH), Frank Iddiols (FI), Heather Jardine (HJ), Christine McDermott (CM), Jon Mein (JM), David Smith (DS), (Cat Newley (CN) – part

Apologies for absence: Peter Burley, Pat Howe, Sally Pearson

		Action
1.	The Minutes of the 573 rd meeting on 1 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.	
2.	Matters Arising: Re item 2 of last minutes, Cat Newley kindly agreed to check whether SAHAAS membership leaflets could be stored at M+G and / or the Verulamium Museum.	CN
3.	Declarations of interest: None.	
4.	Altered meeting date: The Council noted that some key members would have been unable to attend this Council meeting on the planned date, hence the deferral.	
5.	President's Remarks: The Council noted the President's report, including a report concerning the Society's 'At Risk' list – see Item 9 below.	
6.	Update from M+G – Cat Newley outlined forthcoming exhibitions as well as personnel changes at the M+G following the successful grant of Arts Council funding.	

		Action
7.	<p>Induction Event: This item was taken together with Item 11 (New Year function). Following discussion, the Council agreed that, to reach more people, the induction event should be combined with the New Year function, and consideration be given to including short pitches that would encourage volunteers to help with aspects of the Society's work.</p> <p>The President would book St Stephen's Hall for 12 January 2024, and CH would contact the member who had organised catering for recent events to see if she could help. The Secretary kindly agreed to devise a quiz. A sub-group (JoMo/TBo/PBo) will consider further action.</p>	JoMo/TBo/ PBo/CH/ BH
8.	<p>Minutes on website: Following discussion, the Council agreed that, henceforth, notes of each Council meeting should be posted on the website once confirmed. The Council also endorsed ExCom's decision that the same should happen to notes of the AGM and the accounts. ExCom (to include PBo for this purpose) would review the format of meeting notes.</p>	JoMo/TD/ BH/SP/PBo
9.	<p>SADC – At Risk: Following discussion, the Council expressed concern that while the St Albans & District Council (SADC)'s Draft Local Plan acknowledged key heritage sites, it did not include measures to conserve them. Notwithstanding SADC's constrained financial resources, the Council felt that, as a minimum, SADC should prepare and (to the extent possible) resource heritage maintenance plans. Such plans would also provide a basis for encouraging private sector contributions, as with the conservation of the Succubus.</p> <p>The Council agreed that SAHAAS should commend this approach to SADC. The Council also noted that a new project group (TBo, PBo, BH, JoMo) would consider additions to the 'At Risk' list before the next Council Meeting).</p>	JoMo/TBo
10.	<p>Seminars – the future: The Council noted that a project group had been established to review the future of seminars. The Council noted that a member had offered to provide input to the review and agreed this should be facilitated.</p>	JoMo/TBo
11.	<p>New Year function (see Item 7 above)</p>	
12.	<p>Projects Report: The Council noted the report. Following discussion, it was agreed that, since the inception of the reports, other avenues for keeping the Treasurer and Council members apprised of progress had been put in place, and there was no longer a need for a separate Projects Report in future. The Council thanked the Vice President for preparing this and past reports.</p>	
13.	<p>The Council noted updates prepared by Council members on membership, financial status, the Clock Tower, HALH, lectures, the Library, the Newsletter, outings, publications, publicity and the website.</p>	

	<p>Stemming from the updates, the Council noted that membership had continued to rise, and now exceeded 700; that more than 80% of members had renewed their membership so far, and that late payers were being chased; that the website hosts had not yet installed a plug-in to enable user analytics; and that the lecture programme had been distributed via social media, prompting an enquiry from an online news provider. Council members expressed regretful understanding of the Publication Officer's wish to step down, and noted that the Publications Group would consider next steps in consultation with ExCom.</p>	
14.	<p>Job Specifications for Council members: The Council noted that while most members had circulated proposed job specifications, some were outstanding. The Chairman asked members to complete this task.</p>	All
15.	<p>Any Other Business: It was agreed to pursue the idea of a survey of members, drawing on experience of previous surveys. TBo would submit proposals at the next Council meeting, and would also review the membership application form to consider whether it remained fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Council noted Frank Iddiols' kind offer to lead a 5.5km walk around local benchmarks, lasting around 1½ - 2 hours. A date would be fixed in future.</p>	TBo FI
	<p>Dates of future Council meetings: The next meeting will be held on 31st October 2023 at 2.30pm. Future meetings are scheduled for 12th December, 30th January, 2nd April and 28th May.</p>	