

**Minutes of the Thirty-Fourth Committee Meeting
held at County Hall Preston
on the
9th January 2010**

Present: Peter Colley (Chairman & Ambleside/Cockermouth & Cumbria Federation), Winnie Clark (Lancaster), Barbara Colley (Ambleside/Cockermouth & Cumbria Federation), Adrian Dunning (Worsley), David Evans (Blackpool), Kathy Fishwick (Rossendale & Lancashire Federation), Rob Foreman (Manchester), Roger Frankland (Lancaster), Brian Gilbert (Rossendale), Ian Harvey (Wavertree), John Kershaw (Manchester), Stephen Langtree (Chester), Christopher Norton (Blackpool), Beryl Radcliffe (Blackpool), Elaine Smith (Blackpool), Paul Thornhill (Didsbury), Charles Walker (Bury), Tom Webster (Didsbury), Martin Widden (Lancaster).

Apologies: Kate Cartmell and Marion Coupe (Lytham St Annes), Iain Gerrard (Littleborough), Susan Spibey (Merseyside), Terry Edgar (Wallasey) and Cynthia Radford (Hoylake).

In view of the vacancies on the committee and the offer from John Kershaw of Manchester Civic Society to become involved, it was agreed that he should be co-opted onto the committee.

34.1 Minutes of the previous meeting;

Adrian proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record and this was agreed.

34.2 Matters arising

Stephen has now written to the Chief Executives of the relevant local authorities in the region, sending two copies each of the Conservation Area booklet (i.e. 80 copies). There are 350 left, and he would like ideas about where to offer these for sale. Cumbrian Association of Local Councils and Friends of the Lake District were suggested.

34.3. Financial position

Brian reported that the account currently stood at £1,811.92. Some money was outstanding from the publication which would be met if there were enough sales of the booklet.

34.4. Our future as a regional association

Tom reported on the growth of the Didsbury society with other groups looking to them to deal with issues.

Peter said that we should aim to capture local issues that concern societies and project an image of what we can do.

We could do with a new name, modified without necessarily changing the initials, and a new design which could head material sent out on-line. This could be done by Kathy or her son perhaps.

We have a mandate to continue in our present form subject to any changes proposed and agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

It is necessary to have an income i.e. £40 per society, but this could not be determined until at least the Annual General Meeting when the national picture would be clearer.

John felt that an administrator plus campaigns manager were all that should be

required nationally, rather than having one or more well-paid staff at director level. It was explained that the National Committee had never been privy to salaries, indeed had been largely without information.

Adrian thought we ought to be able to trust Tony Burton, while John said there should normally be a steering committee for establishing such an organisation rather than only one person.

The role of Bluefin and the profits produced for the organisation, like those for the Civic Trust were discussed. It was reported by Adrian that a financial statement had been produced and could be seen in the CSI Bulletin 6 (Page 3), though how detailed it was would remain to be seen.

34.5. Subsequent meetings

It was decided to hold the planned committee meeting in March, but to take up Peter's suggestion for a link with the Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages for a combined meeting/seminar on Affordable Housing in the spring at a date to be mutually agreed.

34.6. Communications

Stephen asked about a newsletter, but needed material for one. It was also decided to produce bulletins for the web site with current information, such as notes about this morning's special meeting.

34.7 .Any Other Business

John thought it might be difficult just now to expect to gain sponsorship for the Association, he considered it more feasible to look for patrons. However, neither will be considered during the present uncertainty about the movement.

Adrian referred to an English Heritage meeting to take place in Telford on February 24th, and in Newcastle on Tyne on March 2nd. As it is on the subject of World Heritage sites, it could be of interest to societies in Cumbria and elsewhere. Details about this event may be found by contacting 01952-587615 or jbl.telshrops@blueyonder.co.uk.