

## **Development Committee Meeting minutes**

10.6.2015

Present: Ian Dougill, Duncan McEwen, James Brett, Laura Waters

Acting Chair and secretary: Mike Galer

Apologies: Malcolm Wright, Martin Gurr, Allan Smith, Adrian Thorpe (secretary), Jim Soper

### **Context:**

The committee has not meet for at least 2 years due to various reasons and the work the committee has undertaken has either not been done or not moved forward, or in part has shifted to other working parties (such as the Chairman's Strategy Group). Earlier this year as a response that the street furniture needed special and urgent attention, along with project management and funding, it was suggested that the Development Committee be tasked with looking at those aspects as a way of starting up the Development Committee again. This was a result of numerous discussions between the President Duncan McEwen, the General Manager, Dr Mike Galer and others, including the chair, Mr Martin Gurr. However, this did not immediately happen as the chair was unable to give the matter his attention and therefore as a result, the General Manager has been tasked by the Board to act as vice-chair working with existing members of the Development Committee to 'kick-start' the committee with 'street furniture' as its primary focus until such time as Mr Gurr was able to give it more time.

### **Minutes**

- 1) The meeting began with discussing the existing terms of reference for the committee which were made available to all attendees. It was discussed that although not originally the primary function of the committee, the maintenance and examination of the street furniture would be the main thrust of the committee while it was still getting back to full functionality. Essentially although street furniture development (i.e. new things) *was* the function of the old committee and maintenance wasn't, for the time being looking at the welfare, maintenance, cleaning and conservation of the street furniture would be. Where possible more 'traditional' aspects of the committee would be included in its work as it got up to speed again.
- 2) It was discussed the recent work (during 2014) to paint and restore the Police Box and the work to straighten the Bundy clock (early 2015) and remount it as examples of this work going on without the Development Committee. Also discussed where other examples, such as the introduction of the buggy shelter, ice-cream parlour painting (to supplier's Bluebell colours) and seating, which could have benefited from committee input, but this didn't happen as it was not functioning at the time. [MSG: Mr Gurr, Mr Sykes and others were consulted about these aspects and the business needs to achieve them, getting rid of the dreadful plastic seating for example outweighed at that time any Development Committee input because it was not at that time functioning to give advice]. Previously received quotations for some of the big work (bridge for example) were also discussed (from Dorothea)

- 3) General discussion followed about the Marylebone Gates (if removed for work, we will need a replacement), the Assembly Room façade (in order to undertake a condition survey), the bridge (any work will need to be done in the winter closed season) the efforts Mr McEwen has made with the pillar box and the Post Office and the need to prioritise our efforts. It was suggested that the K1 (A&B) telephone box needed urgent attention.
- 4) It was agreed that one of the first tasks would be to undertake a physical survey/walk around to identify items needing attention (or not) with pictures and documentation, to be undertaken in phases: phase 1, Town End to the wall post box; phase 2, depot area to bridge; phase 3, bridge to the start of the single line; phase 4, single-line to wakebridge; phase 5, wakebridge; phase 6, wakebridge to glory mine. This is a view to determine a priority order as well as an action list for each item. **See action points.**
- 5) **Colours:** there was a general discussion about standardisation of colours and the need for historical accuracy for objects with a known definite significant history, (i.e. correct colours representing the city/corporation from where they came from), though it was conceded that traction poles for example could be painted all one colour, though it must be debated which one of course at a later date. It was debated whether or not it was accurate to paint the coats of arms on iron work. Colours needed to be researched from samples and photographs etc.
- 6) **Volunteers:** we want of course volunteers to help with the work, especially painting. One of the outcomes of the walk-round /survey would be to determine how much if any work could be undertaken by volunteers. [A side discussion ensued talking about railings and Tony Wilkes and others who have done a lot of railings in the past and some work has started again for railings at Admissions]. The last Winter Working weekends were discussed where we had definite working parties, lists of work and team leaders to ensure focus – it was agreed this worked well and should be continued.
- 7) **Survey of the Derby Assembly Rooms:** James Brett is investigating this with Historic England and looking at various options. The condition of the windows was discussed and how Laurence managed to rescue them this winter with lots of filler and has also repainted and repaired the green toilet doors, so at least the ground level looks ok. We have one or two bits that have fallen off and there are sections held by netting only. The likelihood is that the windows need replacing soon. **See action points.**
- 8) **Pillar Box:** Duncan reported current position and history of his dealings with the Post Office over the pillar box (a long history of correspondence). He will chase current position. **See action points.**
- 9) **Inspectors hut:** the potential need for an Inspectors Hut was discussed to be positioned near the Police Box maybe. Requires research and consultation with others, i.e. with Traffic department, H&S committee etc. May need the buggy shelter repositioned. **See action points.**
- 10) **Generator item near first-aid hut:** this item was discussed in general: its current condition, potentials for covering it, restoring it (not to working order, just conservation), interpretation and risks (both climbing and asbestos)
- 11) **General matters:** the last report of 2012 of the committee was discussed and we should all re-read it. Matters such as setts at Town End, dropped curbs were all discussed as general points. **See action points.**

**12) Finance and funding:** it is likely that a lot of the work will require a large amount of financial backing, particularly the 'big' tasks such as the metal work on the bridge, depot and Marylebone Gates and so on, and these will either have to be provided by the Board, donations or a combination. One of the tasks of the Development Committee would be making those kinds of recommendations. The Subscriber Plus fund was discussed as a potential source for funds, as are donation boxes (should be banked) and specific 'campaigns' such as text donating and marketed campaigns via social media etc. **See action points.**

Action Points:

- 1) The phase 1 walk-round/survey will occur on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9 to 11am with, LW, MSG, JB and DMcE
- 2) DMcE to start researching the possibility of an Inspectors Hut.
- 3) James Brett to continue working with Historic England and the condition Survey of the Derby Assembly Rooms
- 4) DMcE to pursue the Post Office further about the outstanding issues with the pillar box
- 5) Re-read 2012 Development Committee report
- 6) MSG to email Derek Redmond about subscriber plus
- 7) Next meeting **Wednesday July the 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am**