

Notes of Meeting 05 July 2021

History Working Party

Present: Trudy Reynolds (TR), Andy Trudgian (AT), Richard Hallows (RH), Nick Foster (NF) and Sue Facey (SF).

This was the first meeting of the reconvened History Working Party on a face to face basis. New members RH and NF were welcomed. It was agreed that TR and AT would be joint chairmen of the group.

Porthpean Sunday School

Since the last meeting of the group the application for Listed Building status was unsuccessful. At the last Parish Council meeting it was decided that there was insufficient community support to pursue the Community Right to bid. It was hoped that the local purchaser would develop the building sensitively with due regard to its historical significance.

Rashleigh Car Park Listing Application

AT said that all the necessary work had been done on the application to Historic England. The owners had been informed the parish clerk would be submitting the application as soon as her workload allowed.

South Polmear Mine Up-date

AT said that several visits had now been made to the area and that a visit with Graham Kirkham had been particularly useful. The mines were highly significant and should be protected but the remains are at risk. Photos and measurements have been taken and a lot of desk-top work has been done. The next step would probably be to have a Measured Survey working with archaeological support but this would involve a cost (possibly around £10k). Landowners would also need to be advised. Sources of funding such as Parish Council, Cornwall Council, WHS, Lottery Funding and grants to be investigated. An up-date of the 1999 Charlestown Archaeological Survey could also be considered.

Action Point: AT will produce a short report to be put to the Parish Council for consideration.

The Battery Up-date

AT wanted to reiterate that there had been no discussions with Peter Browning (PB) about linking any work at The Battery with any planning application and that the only finance that had been discussed related to the offer from PB to finance installation of a flagpole. There had been no offer from PB to fund the cost of the whole project (circa £30k).

AT explained that this would be a phased project over the next 2 to 3 years. Phase 1 would be to submit a planning application to fell some trees that were in danger of undermining the existing historic structure of the boundary wall and to remove some dead or damaged trees to open up views to Porthpean. If approved this work would be done in the autumn/early winter. The loss of trees would be mitigated by planting hedgerow trees along the new footpath to The Battery. This has been agreed by PB.

Phase 2 would be to clear some of the undergrowth, prepare new paths, create some wildlife/wild flower areas and fell some further trees to open up views to the harbour. Install the flagpole.

Phase 3 would be to install a replica cannon, interpretation boards etc.

Phase 4 would be ongoing maintenance, guided walks, exhibits, events etc.

Action Points: AT will prepare planning application for tree felling. TR will advise the Parish Council of the proposed plans.

The Leats Up-date

AT raised his concerns that the leat system which ran from Sandy Bottom to the harbour was falling into a further state of disrepair. SF said that until the spring of 2020 there was a continuous flow of water through the fields adjacent to Charlestown Road and on down through the village but since then it had been dry. AT said that in his meetings with the Harbour they expressed their desire to have the leat system flowing effectively.

A general discussion was held but no resolution was found. To be discussed again.

Listing Enhancement for the Harbour

This has been a topic previously raised. The existing Listing is now considered to be out of date and is not detailed enough to determine which features are or aren't included. Recent confusion is apparent as even Planners have given differing opinions. AT said there is a new project by Cornwall Council for Local Listing. It may be that we could use this project to detail the specific aspects of the harbour area which need protection.

Action Point: AT to send link to other members about the Local Listing Project. Next meeting could be held at the Harbour so these features could be recorded.

Listing Application for The Linhay

It was decided to defer this application until the construction work at The Nest was nearing completion (early 2022). It was suggested that the application for listing of the Linhay should run in tandem with the application for enhancement of the Harbour Listing as both features are so interlinked. Landowners will need to be advised of the intentions before the applications are submitted.

Up-date from the Charlestown History Group

Most of the work being done had already been discussed on other items. The "drop-In" sessions on Tuesday mornings are now being held and will be open to more people as Covid rules relax. It was important that there was a place where books, documents and information about the village could be accessed. AT will ask Peter Hancock (local author) if he had any books he could offer. AT said that the bicentenary of Charles Rashleigh's death occurs in April 2023 and it may be appropriate for the village to commemorate this occasion in some way.

Communications

Concerns were raised about communications between the Harbour, the residents, the Parish Council, and the Planning Departments. It was hoped

that with the appointment of the new County Councillor the situation might improve. It was suggested that James Mustoe was invited to the next History Working Party meeting.

Wainhomes Proposals

It was noted that these proposals will be made widely available to all residents to comment on. Some of the plots have significant historical significance (particularly the Ropewalk). No action to be taken by the Working Party who will rely on the Parish Councillors to make the appropriate decision.