

History Working Party Minutes

Minutes of Meeting on 14 October 2021 at 1.30 pm, held in Sue Facey's home (the Pattern Hall was locked).

Attendees: Cllr T Reynolds (co-Chair) & Andy Trudgian, Charlestown History Group (co-Chair), Cllrs Rick Hallows & Nick Foster, Sue Facey and Cllr James Mustoe.

1. Welcome to Cllr James Mustoe

JM was welcomed by TR. JM explained his interest in local history and offered his support in his role as Councillor, if necessary and appropriate.

2. Rashleigh Car Park Listing Application

AT confirmed this had now been submitted. The decision is awaited.

3. South Polmear Mine

AT confirmed that following last month's meeting he had received an estimate from the Cornwall Archaeological Unit for a full Total Station (EDM) survey of the surviving features at Polmear Mine. The quote is approximately £3975.80 + VAT. That was with the caveats that the estimate is based on limited knowledge of the site and is contingent on the level of recording for the specified structures (e.g. Historic England Level 2, 3 etc). If a detailed analytical Historic Building Record of the dressing mill (or other structures) is required, the cost will need to be amended. AT asked if the Parish Council could help with the cost?

JM offered a possible £200 from his Community Chest budget and advised AT to submit a request to him.

Action: AT will email the Council with this request.

In the discussions that followed it was suggested that other funding sources should also be explored such as grants, lottery funding etc. The Parish Councillors present also offered to raise this at the next Parish Council meeting with a proposal for a sum of £1,000 to be contributed.

Action: NF to propose this at the meeting on 21st October 2021.

4. The Battery

AT gave an update on the plans for the 'Battery Recharge'. The event is being held on Sunday 7 November and a poster is being designed to be displayed around the village to advertise the event and request volunteers. JM offered to try to request the Cormac trailer to help clear the rubbish away.

Action: JM to request the trailer from Cormac.

AT confirmed that a planning application for Phase 1 works had been submitted to fell specific trees that were threatening the retaining wall. This action will take place in the Spring. AT then explained the plans for Phase 2 which includes more extensive felling, opening-up the site, reinstating the flagpole and hopefully installing a replica cannon. He hopes to be able to tie-

in the re-opening of the site with the bicentenary of Rashleigh's death in March 2023. The pre-App cost for this Phase 2 work is around £200. JM advised that this could also be paid from his Community Chest budget.

Action: AT to email the Council with this request.

5. Listing Enhancement of Harbour

AT explained that Historic England had decided to review the listing as the current listing is outdated and very vague. It needs to be updated to be far more specific and to name more particular items in line with current listing expectations. It is not clear if that review will include the addition of other areas such as the tunnels, the tramway and other features all the way up to and including the remains of the Linhay.

6. Up-date from Charlestown History Group

AT mentioned that apart from all the above the Group are currently looking for ideas on how to commemorate Rashleigh's bicentenary. One idea is some form of memorial to him as there isn't anything currently in the village. Perhaps something in the church? NF mentioned the lack of Interpretation Boards, shouldn't there be one about Rashleigh himself somewhere in the village, and another on the workings of the inner harbour and its connection to the tunnels, Linhay etc? RH agreed and suggested piloting perhaps a QR code system somewhere, perhaps the Battery could be the first such project? AT also suggested that the pilchard fishing industry, which was the first in the village, should be highlighted somewhere. AT agreed that Interpretation Boards and a more specific site for local history should be found somewhere.

Finally, the CHG are using Charlestown as a pilot area for the Local Listing project so that things such as places and items that aren't listed elsewhere can be recorded in the list. Items such as manhole covers stamped with 'Charlestown Foundry' and the water tap niches throughout the village can be listed.

7. Communications/Planning/Harbour/Quay Road/The Leats

AT mentioned how concerned he was with the Leat system which is no longer running and is becoming increasingly overgrown and blocked in many places. He has been in contact with Cornwall Council trying to find out if anyone is looking after it, is there the intention to clear it etc? No response has been received so discussions need to be pursued.

8. AOB

A reminder that the archive and the library in the Pattern Hall is open between 10.00am and 12 noon every Tuesday.