

# Colwyn Bay Heritage Group

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 - Theatr Colwyn, Abergele Road.

**Present:** Arthur Creber (Chair), Peter Detheridge (Secretary), David Masding (Treasurer), Terry Bond, David Brown, Cllr David Cowans (CCBC), Cllr Mary Doyle (CCBC), Cllr Chris Hughes (CCBC), Janet Johnson, Graham Jones, Bill McMillan, Ian Reid, Eunice Roberts and Marcus Towntoy.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Cllr Glenys Baker (B of C TC), Cllr. Cheryl Carlisle (CCBC), Cllr. Brian Cossey (CCBC), Judi Greenwood, Helen Jackson, David Jones MP., Cllr Colin Matthews (B of C TC), Darren Millar AM., Linda Nesbitt, and Monty Slocombe.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

- (i) The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
- (ii) Matters arising:  
There were no matters arising.

### 3. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on another year of activity in which the Heritage Group began one significant and important new project and continued work on a project begun in the previous year. The Group also participated in a number of new "one off" initiatives.

#### Projects completed in 2017

With funding from the Colwyn Bay Townscape Heritage Initiative, and after much effort on the part of members of the Group's Management committee and of Handy-Office, 11 exhibition boards were completed. These are for use at exhibitions and other events where the Group wishes to have a presence. Some of them are currently on display at the town library. We remain grateful to the THI for providing the funds to establish a long lasting legacy for the town through this and other projects.

#### Projects launched in 2017

A suggestion was made some years ago that the Group record the history of open spaces in Colwyn Bay. Whilst at the time we hadn't the capacity to pursue the task we are now pursuing the work together along with representatives of the Colwyn Bay Environmental and Conservation Federation and with help from Council officers. The project should be completed in Spring 2018 and will be published on the group's website.

In the Summer of 2017 we were asked whether we would take over responsibility for the Then and Now discussion group This was established by the THI some years ago as a monthly forum for discussing matters of local historical interest. On the demise of the THI, the discussion group needed an organisation which could give direction and help organise the meetings. The Heritage

Group agreed to take on the responsibility, but only on the basis of organising one meeting every three months as our capacity and time are limited. This was accepted by the Then and Now members, and the facilitator also felt able to continue her support on this basis. A programme of discussions has been prepared for 2018 and will be widely distributed.

### **Projects continuing throughout 2017**

In the Autumn of 2016 Cindy Lowe, a member of the Heritage Group's Management Committee, launched an oral history project to collect memories of local peoples' school experiences, especially during or just after WW2. This project continued throughout 2017 and 32 stories have been collected from pupils who attended various local schools. An e-book layout was prepared and plans are in hand for this book to be published very soon. It will be downloadable from Amazon or as a PDF download from the Heritage Group's own website.

### **New initiatives in 2017**

In the early months of 2017 we sponsored a project in the town's Tan Lan area focussing on the carnivals held in previous years and their importance to the development of the estate. Memories of such celebrations were recorded by TAPE and a film of the carnivals will shortly be uploaded to the Heritage Group's website.

The 2017 AGM was addressed by David Masding, a member of the Heritage Group's Management Committee, who spoke about the work of the Group in developing the Old Colwyn Walk and booklet. This was the first of a series of talks given to various organisations through the year by different members of the Management Committee. We also provided stalls at a number of events in the town to promote local history research and the work of the Group, sometimes sharing space with Colwyn Bay Library, with which we work very closely.

In July we hosted 52 members of Liverpool's Wavertree Society as part of its historical visit to North Wales. Following a presentation on the town's development three conducted short walks and a visit to St.Trillo's chapel took place.

### **Appreciations for help in 2017**

The Colwyn Bay Heritage Group is best described as a 'working group'. Its Management Committee initiates, manages and supports its projects and involves other people in fulfilling its annual programme of work. Our thanks go to those who felt confident enough to support us in 2017, namely the Bay of Colwyn Town Council financially and Conwy County Borough Council by support and encouragement particularly through its Library Service. Thanks should also be given to the faithful volunteers on the Management Committee for their effort in making 2017 another worthwhile year.

Changes will occur shortly with the development of Conwy Council's Cultural Centre, together with initiatives being planned to promote the town's heritage. Whilst this attention on heritage issues is naturally welcome, it is hoped that, with all the possible 'professional' developments, the skills and contribution of ordinary local people will not be overlooked and the existing and well established networks will not be ignored. A better way forward would be to harness all local interest and ensure that creative partnerships are established.

## **4. Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer reported that there had been an expenditure of £4,868 during the year, the main items, totalling £4,382, being for the printing of the Old Colwyn Walk booklet. Income had largely comprised a £1,598 final grant installment from the Rhyl Flats Windfarm Communities Fund to

finance the Old Colwyn walk project. There being no uncleared cheques, the current balance was stated to be £692, most of which was committed for expenditure on the printing of the exhibition material.

In response to a question of whether the Group had considered obtaining sponsorship for any of its projects, the Treasurer said that the criteria of the main grant aiding bodies approached had been appropriate for the Group's projects so that alternative funding sources had not been necessary.

#### **5. Management Committee Elections**

The Chairman said that all of the 2017 Committee were prepared to continue in 2018, with the exception of David Brown who felt that he wasn't able to commit the necessary time to the Committee's work. The Chairman thanked David for his Committee attendances during the year and his helpful contributions. Also Judi Greenwood, who had replaced Katie Dutta as a representative of the THI, had said that she would be leaving her post in March.

It was **resolved** that members of the 2017 Committee should be Arthur Creber, Peter Detheridge, Helen Jackson, Janet Johnson, Cindy Lowe, David Masding, Linda Nesbitt, Ian Reid and Eunice Roberts.

#### **6. Future work programme**

The Chairman said that the work programme was likely to comprise:

- Completion of the school reminiscences e-book.
- Development of the timeline.
- Completion of the work on the area's public open spaces.

He also said that any ideas for future projects would be welcomed at any time during the forthcoming year.

It was then suggested that the Group could be involved in making an input into a heritage element of the revision of the Colwyn Bay Regeneration Plan being prepared by the Council. The Chairman said that the Group had contributed to the Promenade Enhancement scheme, in particular the "postcard element".

It was also suggested that the Group could make an input into the future plans for a reconstructed Victoria Pier through the Pier Trust.

#### **7. Presentation - The History of Bodnant Gardens**

Due to the unfortunate absence of the agenda speaker, Judi Greenwood, due to illness David Masding had agreed to be a substitute speaker by giving a presentation on the history of Bodnant, its links to Colwyn Bay and its historic garden. His very interesting presentation was well received and he was thanked by the Chairman for standing in for Judi at such short notice.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

There were no items of any other business.

In closing the meeting the Chairman thanked those present for their interest in the work of the Group and for their attendance at the meeting.