

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Friends of Dudley Castle held on
Monday 2nd July 2019 at 7.30pm at 10 Priory Close, Dudley**

Present: Gill Griffiths, Greta Howell, Marilyn Crowther, Pam Hazlehurst, Lynette Willetts, Mary McGraghan, Adrian Durkin and Patrick McGraghan, who took the chair for the evening.

Apologies: Bob Aston, Graham Griffiths, Joyce Murray, David Robinson and Joan Tyson.

Minutes: of the last meeting had been circulated and were agreed.

Matters arising:

- The "Castle" books sent to Alan Harvey at Himley Hall had been received, but it is not known if any had been sold. Alan is keeping them at the Hall for the moment.
- Both motions put to the AGM were passed.
- Marilyn Crowther offered to tender her resignation to the Committee but was encouraged to remain as a member.
- The 30th Anniversary of Rampart extracts was handed out to those present. The remainder will be passed out at the Anniversary Dinner and posted as necessary. It was appreciated by committee members who commented favourably on the colours.

Correspondence:

- Local History Day: The Chairman had received an invitation to attend the Annual Dudley Archives and Local History Day on Saturday 5th October from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Instructions about unloading cars and moving them next door to the Black Country Museum car park were included in the invitation letter. Free parking tokens would be available from the Archives on the day.
- Derek Grove had emailed Graham with information about the FDC members joining the DZG Outreach teams at various events during the year. These included:
 - 7th July: Warley Woods Picnic in the Park in Smethwick
 - 14th July: Black Country Musicom at Hagley
 - 22nd July: Sycamore on Sea in Dudley
 - 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th August: Play Week in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Dudley and Pensnett.
 - 19th August: Cerebral Palsy Summer Fete in Harborne.The contact point for those interested in attending and for more information is Madeleine Avila-Thomas at the DZG on 01384 215306

Newsletter:

- **Pam** agreed to produce a Newsletter for distribution prior to our Dinner.

Finance:

- We are solvent.

Speakers:

- **26th September:** **Mike Hodder** to talk on local Manor houses.
- **31st October:** David Robinson will ask **Adrian** to give us a talk.
- **28th November:** **Max Keen** will speak on Lord Nelson.
- **5th December:** **Christmas meal at the Lodge.**

Membership:

- Reminders will be sent out soon, hopefully with the Newsletter to minimise postage costs.

Events:

- **Our 30th Anniversary Celebrations:** Pam is organising the table-plan for the Celebratory Dinner on 25th July 2019 at which **Adrian Durkin** has agreed to speak. Currently 34 members are attending, though we hope for more nearer the date.
- **Greta's** cake-making has already undergone initial testing and found to be satisfactory.
- **Severn Valley Railway outing:** A provisional booking has been made for 28th September leaving Kidderminster at 11.10am, with a meal arranged at Highley Engine House before moving on to Bridgnorth for a brief stay before returning to Kidderminster around on the 4.00pm from Bridgnorth.

AOB

- **Gill** reported on the work undertaken at Himley Hall and the difficulties faced by the team in cataloguing artefacts from mouldy boxes and with index cards in disarray. There were offers of help.
- **Adrian** reported that he will be holding tours of the Castle on the evenings of 15th and 28th August from 6 to 8pm. These could be used as "Training" sessions for members of the Friends wishing to give brief tours around the Castle when the need arose. To attend we should inform Derek / Zoo office beforehand.

Patrick closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Date of next meeting: **Graham** is to attend a meeting on Wednesday 3rd July with Zoo and Council members and depending on the outcome of that meeting it may be necessary to hold an earlier than usual Committee meeting. ~~It was proposed that we meet on **Monday 22nd July** to hear what **Graham** has to report. If nothing substantive arises from his meeting, we will cancel it and arrange another for later.~~

Now postponed until **Monday 12th August** as **Graham** is invited to further meetings.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Correspondence
5. Newsletter
6. Finance
7. Speakers
8. Membership
9. Events
10. AOB