



## **MERTON PRIORY TRUST**

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 1 Compton Road SW19 7QA**

### **1. Present:**

Chair: Marcus Beale (MB), Cllr Richard Chellew, Cllr Maurice Groves (MG), Dennis Turner (DT), David Saxby (DS), Nicholas Hart (NH), Cyril Maidment (CM), John Hawks (JH)

**2. Apologies:** Cllr Geraldine Stanford, Vicki Carroll, Jane Sidell, Dave Roberts

### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Agreed these were a true and correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

4.1. Land Transfer (see 5. below)

4.2. Events (see 7. below)

4.3. Improvements (see 8. below)

4.4. World Heritage Site

RC confirmed that the shortlist would be decided soon; there were no great expectations, but all agreed the exercise had been invaluable in raising the Priory's profile.

4.6. Friends of Merton Priory

Nones will be held on May 1st. The "Friends" had been given the user agreement form, and MB will supply them with the key in due course.

**[Action: JH to drop off key to MBA]**

4.7. Access and Use. Nothing further to report

4.8. Financial Report. Nothing further to report

4.9. **Actions carried forward:**

**MB and JH to meet to address website improvements on Wednesday 16th March.**

**MB to contact John Merivale re criteria for funding from Bridge House Trust.**

**MB to harvest names for the database from the Visitors Book which NH had supplied.**

### **5. Land Transfer**

MB had contacted Axa senior management but had received no reply, just a telephone acknowledgement. NH has received an email today from Ingrid Lackajis suggesting the agreement may now be imminent, and it was felt these two matters could perhaps be connected. MB had contacted Cllr Andrew Judge who had expressed willingness to get involved if appropriate.

### **6. Fundraising**

RC updated the meeting on the status of the World Heritage Site bid, on his forthcoming meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss a proposal for funding a mobile exhibition, and on his exciting project to create a facsimile of Magna Carta. This he planned to exhibit in rotation in local churches, and 90% of the funds raised from the sale of copies would go to the Merton Priory Trust, who would be responsible for supervising this. Insurance and security were issues, and there would need to be a suitable container for preservation and transportation.

**[Action: DS will enlist the aid of conservation experts in the Museum of London for this].** Meeting warmly thanked RC for his input, and RC recorded his particular thanks to The Diocese of Salisbury, The House of Lords and the College of Arms for their great help.

The Living Wandle Landscape Partnerships Bid, being prepared for the joint boroughs does not adequately reflect the Priory. NH to forward details to MBA who will communicate with the consultants direct. Deadline is this week. **[Action NH, MB.]**

## **7. Next Steps**

The next scheduled open days are June 4/5, the Festival of British Archaeology end July and London Open City mid September. **[Action: NH/DS/JH will pursue when a prominent guest can be invited to raise the profile of the improvements.]** Agreed the June date would be the best for this. JH reported on plans with the local parishes for a community "pilgrimage" along the Wandle on Saturday 9th July, ending in a service in the Chapter House and picnic in Wandle Park; and on a planned art event in the Chapter house in October.

## **8. Improvement Works**

JH has circulated a status report which was discussed. Meeting warmly thanked DS for his ongoing efforts in painting the walls white which all agreed was a huge improvement. Much of the theatre and other stuff has been cleared, and the sand removal project is planned soon using the Merton reparation service. Useful contacts have also been made with potential volunteers, including David Tatham (an enthusiastic local resident) and Hassan Al'Omani (an IT postgraduate whose particular subject was the Priory), and the Visitor's Book kept by NH was also an excellent potential resource. DS has begun a Facebook page by which events and opportunities to help would be publicised, and was updating this weekly. **[Action: DS to forward URL details to MBA for link from website.]**

## **9. Other Business**

9.1 Meeting expressed sincere condolences to Nick Draper on Sheila's sad death; her warmth, enthusiasm and dedication will be remembered by us all.

9.2 Stained Glass Panels from Sheridan Road

NH is in contact with the owners and was expecting to move them to the Chapter House early in April.

9.3 Outline Maps

DS and NH will continue with marrying up the various maps of the site, and forward all drawings to MBA who will keep a central archive of site drawings. **[Action DS, NH, MB.]**

9.4 Heritage Strategy

CM raised the Merton Heritage Strategy, and would be pursuing issues it raised which he felt fell short in a number of respects.

## **10. Next meeting**

This will be at the Chapter House at 5 pm on Wednesday 20th April

---

These notes by JH/MB. Any corrections or clarifications please to info@mertonpriory.org