

Friends of Ayton Castle

Meeting Minutes 7th October 2019

Present

Peter Durkin (Chairman/WAPC), Catherine Cussons (Farmer), Adrian Perry (Civic Society), Joy Woolley (EAPC), Jean Glover (Civic Society, Local Resident), David Raine (Civic Society), Peter Holtby (Local Resident), Tony & Lynne Burnett (Local Residents).

Apologies

Neil Hardisty (East Ayton Parish Council), Paul Buck (Scarborough Borough Council, Chris Hall (Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society), Steven Garbutt (WAPC).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 8th July 2019 were approved.

DISCUSSIONS

Funding: Lottery Funding – National Heritage Lottery Fund/Memorial Fund – Peter Durkin has researched these two potential funders. It would appear that the NHLF could be our best prospect. They will fund new projects which engage the wider community, repairs and conservation, digital outputs – digital images, sound files or data, a website with heritage material etc. The NHMF would not appear to meet our requirements because they will not fund restoration costs (except emergency repairs) and costs which have already been spent.

We need to put a project together before further progress can be made through the NHLF.

Meet the Funders – meetings/forums are held to provide potential applicants with advice and enable them to explore potential funding opportunities. Peter Durkin to make further enquiries more with view to attending a future event.

Coastal Communities Fund – Chris Hall to investigate and provide further details.

Dawnay Estates/Mulgrave Estates – Peter Durkin emailed both to enquire about potential funding but to date has not received a response.

History of Ayton Castle Booklet: Booklets were used during the Castle Open Day. We need to top up supplies in the Library. We need to consider and explore if booklets could be provided to East Ayton Lodge & East Ayton school.

Heritage Open Day: Saturday 14th September – the event was a great success. Chris Hall has reported that there were 145 entries in the Visitors book of whom 40 were children. The actual turnout was actually over 155 which is pretty good for the day - 65% of attendees came from local villages and 12% from town. The rest came from diverse locations – Whitby, Malton, Dartford, Doncaster, Pickering & Bridlington. People heard about the event – 30% saw the Village Posters, 26% Facebook and 20% word of mouth, The HODs website, Email from SAHS. The Scarborough paper and people seeing the bunting attracted most of the rest. Donations amounted to £80 on the day of which £10 has been given to Derwent Valley Bridge Library who supplied the tables used during the event. The committee thanked Chris and his team for their hard work and support. Sadly the SAHS Field team will have a heavy fieldwork load during August/September 2020 which means that next year they will not be able to participate in the Heritage Open Day. It was agreed in principle that we should do

something, perhaps to tie in with the history day? Members to come up with some ideas and suggestions for our next meeting in January.

Security: no evidence of further incursion over the past few months. We will continue to monitor and keep under review.

Banking: Cath Cussons has provided the Bank with up to date details as requested. All is now in order. Current bank balance £1,404.20.

Any other business: Ivy has been treated by SBC and it appears to be starting to work. Need to keep under review. Best Tours Ltd of Uxbridge enquiry about a proposed group visit to the Castle in January 2020 – Peter Durkin replied to this enquiry to explain that it would not possible to open up the Castle because there would be safety and insurance implications if the Castle was opened for a group like this. He stressed that the Castle is accessible all year for the public to walk around the outside of the structure and the Castle field. There are interpretation panels explaining the history of the Castle, what is in the field adjacent to the Castle and a leaflet about the Castle is available in the local Library a short walk away where the group would need to park. Heritage Open Day was also mentioned and the possibility that we might be able to give a guided tour if we could arrange this in advance of the visit. Best Tours replied to say that the group had not confirmed with them after all! **Insurance** - Adrian Perry suggested at our July meeting that membership of the British Society for Local History could provide the appropriate cover for potential future visits of this nature. Membership of the BALH costs £75 per year and this includes insurance cover arranged through Townergate Insurance Brokers which includes cover for Public Liability. The policy year runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. It was agreed that we will join the BALH with effect from 1st January 2020.

Website – we currently have a free Website hosting package with a limited bandwidth which has resulted in our site being inaccessible for a week or so every month because we have exceeded our allowance. It was agreed that it is important that our Website is accessible all year round. We could upgrade our package at a cost of £24 per year to overcome this problem. Adrian Perry to check out the mechanics of completing this upgrade.

Next Meeting: Midday on Tuesday 21st January 2020 in St John the Baptist Church unless otherwise advised.

Circulation: Stephen Garbutt, Paul Buck, Cath Cussons, Peter Durkin, Adrian Perry, Chris Perry, David Raine, G. Lee, David Jeffels, Clair Shields, Mike Baines, Mike Lawson, Jean Glover, Marion Raine, Ken Oakden, Heather Phillips, Richard Mead, Chris Hall, Jennifer Harley, Joy Woolley, Lynne Burnett, Neil Hardisty, John Edwards, Carl Duck, Rachael Vaughan, Peter Holtby.

Friends of Ayton Castle

Meeting Minutes 8th JULY 2019

Present

Peter Durkin (Chairman/WAPC), Catherine Cussons (Farmer), Steve Garbutt (WAPC), Paul Buck (Scarborough Borough Council), Adrian Perry (Civic Society), Chris Hall (Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society), Joy Woolley (EAPC), Jean Glover (Civic Society, local resident), David Raine (Civic Society).

Apologies

Neil Hardisty (East Ayton Parish Council).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 15th April 2019 were approved.

Discussions

Funding: National Park Leader funding – Peter Durkin reported that he had contacted Amy Thomas, North York Moors, Coast & Hills, Leader Funding Programme Manager with an outline of our proposed projects. Funds have been fully allocated and it is unlikely that any further funds will be received into the Programme. This is because of Brexit uncertainty and the future of European and National funding to these projects which is coming to an end.

Lottery Funding – National Heritage Lottery Fund/Memorial Fund – further investigation required.

Coastal Communities Fund – Chris Hall to investigate and provide further details.

Lord Downe – pending further investigation required through land agent Robert Sword.

History of Ayton Castle Booklet: 500 booklets received to date. These are being allocated to the Library, Walkers Fish Restaurant, Caravan Club Site & Betton Farm. Further supplies will be received shortly. Payment will be required for these booklets in due course.

Heritage Open Day: Saturday 14th September between 10.30 am and 4 pm. Same format as last year. Clean up the day before.

Security: some evidence of further incursion but this appears to be very limited. Access is probably occurring over the top of the gate at the bottom of the stairs when it does happen. We will continue to monitor and keep under review.

Banking: letter received from HSBC Bank asking for up to date information about us. Cath Cussons has tried to make contact with the Bank so far without success. Peter Durkin to try and make contact as well.

Any other business: It was reported at our last meeting that Ivy growing up the inside wall of the Castle appears to be thriving. Paul Buck will talk to the Parks Department at SBC to see if this can be cut back. Geocache at Ayton Castle – Forge Valley Guides have placed a small plastic box containing guiding badges at the base of one of the trees close to the Castle. Examination of the box and the Log Book contained within it, reveals that there have been one or two visitors who have been able to find it! Best Tours Ltd of Uxbridge made an enquiry about a proposed group visit to the Castle in January 2020. There would be safety and insurance implications if the Castle was opened for a group like this. Adrian Perry suggested that membership of the British Society for Local History could provide the

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appropriate cover for potential future visits of this nature. Further investigation required. Peter Durkin to reply to this enquiry to say no access inside the Castle is possible but stress the other positives about a visit to the site. Find out exactly when the Group will be visiting so that we might be able to give them a guided tour without going inside the Castle itself?

Next Meeting: Midday on Monday 7th October 2019 in St John the Baptist Church unless otherwise advised.

Circulation: Stephen Garbutt, Paul Buck, Cath Cussons, Peter Durkin, Adrian Perry, Chris Perry, David Raine, G. Lee, David Jeffels, Clair Shields, Mike Baines, Mike Lawson, Jean Glover, Marion Raine, Ken Oakden, Heather Phillips, Richard Mead, Chris Hall, Jennifer Harley, Joy Woolley, Lynne Burnett, Neil Hardisty, John Edwards, Carl Duck, Rachael Vaughan, Peter Holtby.

Friends of Ayton Castle

Meeting Minutes 15th April 2019

Present

Catherine Cussons (Farmer), Paul Buck (Scarborough Borough Council), David Jeffels (SBC/NYCC), Peter Durkin (local resident), Chris Hall (Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society), John Edwards (local resident), Jean Glover (Civic Society, local resident), David Raine (Civic Society).

Apologies

Steve Garbutt (West Ayton Parish Council), Adrian Perry (Civic Society), Neil Hardisty (East Ayton Parish Council), Lynne Burnett (local resident).

It was reported that Marion Raine will be unable to attend any future meetings. Our thanks for her past contribution to the Group.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 14th January 2019 were approved.

Discussions

Funding: Parish Council Funding – since our previous meeting Neil Hardisty has confirmed that East Ayton Parish Council have awarded us a Grant of £450 which will be available at the start of the new funding year.

WREN Funding – this funding is supported through a landfill tax and applicants need to be within 10 miles of a landfill site. Our local site at Seamer is not classified as landfill which means that we would not qualify for this funding.

National Park Leader funding – this is EU funding administered by the National Park. Chris Hall to find out the point of contact and Peter Durkin to email to establish if we could qualify.

Lottery Funding – this is a possibility but is very difficult to obtain. Further investigation is required.

English Heritage (Historic England) – No funding is available.

Sirius Minerals Foundation – this is focused on amateur sport this year but could be a future possibility. Keep under review.

Lord Normanby (Mulgrave Estates) – this could be a possible source but we are probably out of the area. Lord Downe is our local Estate Owner. Further investigation required through land agent Robert Sword.

Interpretation panel: visitors have been seen to be reading the panel and we have had no comments about the inaccuracy in the text. We will keep this under review and consider the pros and cons of sticking an amendment over the offending text.

History of Ayton Castle Booklets: progress report required to see if the leaflets have been ordered and are now in place.

Heritage Open Day: Chris Hall reported that the date for this year's Open Day is Saturday 14th September between 10.30 am and 4 pm. Same format as last year. Clean up the day before. Adrian Perry had mentioned at our last meeting that he and his wife Christine were planning a walk to the Castle from Hutton Buscel during the Open Day. Peter Durkin to check if this walk is still planned?

Security: the extension to the gate at the bottom of the stairs appears to be having the desired affect and deterring intruders. This will be monitored and kept under review.

Scanning the structure: No further progress update required from Adrian Perry.

Aerial photography of Ayton Castle – Chris Hall reported that the images are not suitable for use on our website.

Refurbishment of the bottom stairs – a discussion took place about making this our next project. Based upon the last costings received for this work it could cost between £9K and £13,600 depending upon the materials used – rubble, stone or metal. Should we undertake this work if it does not improve the structure of the building or could it be regarded as a safety issue. People do climb up the wall and try to access down this staircase which is in a poor state of repair. If the staircase is repaired could this enable the castle to be opened on a more regular basis thereby making it more accessible to the community. We need an expert to tell us if the staircase is not safe. Chris Hall agreed to have an informal chat with English Heritage to obtain their views and report back.

Any other business: Ivy growing up the inside wall of the Castle appears to be thriving. We need to keep a watchful eye on this. Website extension and future issues to be investigated.

Next Meeting: Midday on Monday 8th July 2019 in St John the Baptist Church unless otherwise advised.

Friends of Ayton Castle

Meeting Minutes 14th January 2019

Present

Catherine Cussons (Farmer), Steve Garbutt (West Ayton Parish Council), Paul Buck (Scarborough Borough Council), Peter Durkin (local resident), Chris Hall (Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society), John Edwards (local resident), Jean Glover (Civic Society, local resident), Neil Hardisty (East Ayton Parish Council), Adrian Perry (Civic Society).

Apologies

David Jeffels (NYCC), Peter Holtby (local resident).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 8th October 2018 were approved.

Discussions

Funding: Parish Council Funding – since our previous meeting Peter Durkin has made funding applications to East & West Ayton Parish Councils for grants of £500 to pay for additional History of Ayton Castle Booklets, Additional Interpretation Panel and Extended Security Gate at the bottom of the stairs. We have been awarded a grant of £400 from West Ayton Parish Council to be paid in April. We have heard nothing back from East Ayton Parish Council. Neil Hardisty agreed to check out the situation with East Ayton Parish Council.

WREN Funding – this has not been progressed. Chris Hall reported that this funding is now through a landfill tax and may be disappearing in the future. He was not sure whether we would qualify but would look into this and report back.

National Park Leader funding – could be another possible source of revenue for us. Peter Durkin to check out and report back.

Interpretation panel: this is now in place and sited in the right place at the bottom of the slope up to the Castle Field. However, because this panel was a duplicate of the other panel located at the other entrance to the Castle Field the text does not read quite right. Specifically, it refers to the Fish Ponds being on the right when they are in fact on the left when you approach from the bottom end of the field! Thankfully, the illustrations are OK. It was agreed that we would leave the panel as it is for now. We will monitor any queries or negative feedback about the content of the text and when we receive further funds, we will consider whether the text needs to be amended. We have agreed to pay £300 to SBC towards the cost of the panel and lectern. We will pay this as a donation when we are in receipt of the funds.

History of Ayton Castle Booklets – agreed that Adrian Perry should go ahead and order a supply of 2000 leaflets.

Heritage Open Day: Chris Hall reported that the date for this year's Open Day has yet to be finalized, but it will probably be the second Saturday in September. It was thought that we should use the same format as last year, using mini digs, which proved popular with the children who attended. It was suggested that we could add in some technology using Drones – Chris will think about this suggestion! Chris presented a cheque for £35 from donations received from the last Open Day.

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Security: the extension to the gate at the bottom of the stairs has been completed. SBC will pay for this work. Peter Durkin reported that it appears to be working because he has not come across any intruders in the building since completion. However, there is still evidence of some incursion and a further small fire which may have happened before the work was completed. It is possible to get over the top of the gate if you are small and physically fit. We will continue to monitor this.

History Booklet Leaflets: our supplies held at the Library are getting short and it was agreed that we should get a price for re-printing another 1000/2000 leaflets. Adrian Perry to report back.

Scanning the structure: Adrian Perry advised that there has been no progress with this.

Aerial photography of Ayton Castle – Chris Hall said he would circulate when available. We discussed whether these images could be uploaded to our Website. However, they are 3D images and could be heavy on broadband width. We have experienced problems with our Website being switched off between 21st December and January because we have exceeded our band width. The existing aerial view on the site appears to be causing the problem. We could move the existing aerial view to the Civic Society Website and put a link to this on our site and also a link to the Archeological Website for the other 3D images? We currently pay for our Domain name but not hosting. We need to consider whether we extend our existing site to enable us to make this content available without linking into other local Websites.

Any other business: Adrian Perry and his wife Christine are planning to conduct a walk from Hutton Buscel to the Castle on Heritage Open Day.

West Ayton Parish Council Annual Assembly in April – possible talk about the Castle. Chris Hall is not available but will give some thought to who else might be able to do it?

Next Meeting: Midday on Monday 15th April 2019 in St John the Baptist Church unless otherwise advised.

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Friends of Ayton Castle

Meeting Minutes 19th May 2022

Present

Peter Durkin (Chairman/WAPC), Catherine Cussons (Farmer), Adrian Perry (Civic Society), Chris Hall (Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society), David Raine (Civic Society), Peter Holtby (Local Resident), Steve Garbutt (WAPC), Paul Buck (Scarborough Borough Council).

Apologies

Joy Woolley (EAPC), Jennifer Harley, David Jeffels (NYCC), Jean Glover (Civic Society/Local Resident).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 7th October 2019 were approved.

Our last scheduled meeting in January 2020 had to be cancelled because of poor attendance. Since then we have all been impacted by COVID-19 and unable to hold face to face meetings until recently.

DISCUSSIONS

Developments Since Our Last Meeting

Tree Down in storm 25/09/2020 – one of the large Lime trees adjacent to the Castle blew down in the storm onto the top of the Castle. Fortunately, no damage was done to the structure of the building but there is still tree debris within the building itself which will need to be cleared in the next tidy up. The remnants of the tree were chipped and removed by grateful local residents!

Youths in Castle – June 2020 Police were called and spoke to a group of local teenagers. January 2021 a further incursion. No damage done. Visits now appear to be infrequent and littering inside the Castle much reduced. There are now holes in the Castle Floor which need to be filled in.

Ayton Castle U Tube Video Tour June 2020 – Chris Hall of Scarborough Archeological Society put together a video tour of the Castle & Surroundings which is available as a link on the Website. This has been very well received by All.

COVID-19 Impact – more people visited the Castle during COVID to get out in the fresh air and exercise. Footfall has now reduced back to pre-COVID levels.

Interpretation Panels – Peter Durkin was contacted by Ed Denison in June 2020. He completed the 1995 earthwork survey which is used on the information boards. He was not pleased that his contribution had not been acknowledged on the panels. He asked that the omission should be rectified in the future should the boards have to be replaced or renewed. Future action required.

Yorkshire Life Magazine – Peter Durkin was contacted by a local student Matt Walsh in July 2021 who was studying media studies. As part of his course he was attempting to write an article for the Yorkshire Life Magazine and decided that the subject would be Ayton Castle. He was provided with all the necessary information and background and had several tours around the Castle, but sadly the article did not go to print.

Funding: The Chairman is regularly updated on possible funding by Sophie Lyth of the NYMYPA. However, our venture does not fit any of the community based criteria now required to obtain funding. Possible funding opportunities will be kept under review.

History of Ayton Castle Booklet: Booklets are not in display in the Library. We need to check out if supplies have run out.

Heritage Open Day: Agreed it would be nice if we could have an Open Day this year but this would require Chris Hall's availability which is determined by his various other commitments. Chris will report back in due course.

Security: most of the stones which people were using to climb up the back of the Castle have been removed, but one large stone remains. This will require two people to move it. Peter Durkin will liaise with Chris Hall to complete this task jointly.

Banking: Current bank balance £1,389.20. Account Signatories to be updated. Peter Durkin to contact HSBC to obtain the necessary documentation. **Insurance** - BALH has been in place since 1st January 2020 and membership is renewed each year in December.

Website – Invoice for Domain Renewal for 1 year at a cost of £8.39 has been paid by Adrian Perry. To be re-imbursed.

Next Meeting: to be arranged in due course.

Circulation: Stephen Garbutt, Paul Buck, Cath Cussons, Peter Durkin, Adrian Perry, Chris Perry, David Raine, G. Lee, David Jeffels, Clair Shields, Mike Baines, Mike Lawson, Jean Glover, Marion Raine, Ken Oaken, Heather Phillips, Richard Mead, Chris Hall, Jennifer Harley, Joy Woolley, Lynne Burnett, Carl Duck, Rachael Vaughan, Peter Holtby, Phoebe Gibson, Mike Lawson