

# 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.

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.