

## **Mill Road History Society (MRHS)**

**Committee meeting Tuesday 5th April 2016, 8.00pm**

**Venue:** Argyle Street Housing Co-operative (ASH) hut

**Members present:** Lucy Walker (Chair), Alan Brigham, Julia Ewans, Judith Salmon (minute taker), Caro Wilson, Rasik Kotecha, Simon Middleton and Michael Long (visiting CU PhD student)

**Apologies:** none

1. Minutes from the last Annual General Meeting dated were accepted by members present. No other matters were arising.

2. New secretary for MRHS committee.

**Action** - Item to be discussed with members item following the Buildings of the Labour Movement talk at next meeting on Wednesday 13th April, 7.30 at St Barnabas centre.

3. Dave Jarvis' plaques. Caro suggested this item be raised again with members at the meeting on Wednesday 13th April. It was agreed that the members of the committee should be explicit that they can support proposed projects eg. as facilitators or offering help/advice to progress, but that their role is not to 'do' a project.

**Action** – Lucy to e-mail Dave Jarvis to say that although committee members did not have any more knowledge about Tom Sharpe, he might find more info at ARU (source for Sharpe's Wilt books); also to suggest i) he post a query on Facebook; ii) he would need to research what permissions are needed to put plaques on walls, and iii) assemble a panel to agree who might have a plaque; iv) perhaps initiate project with Mr Baker at Arjuna, and see whether it grows from there.

4. City Council proposal to demolish Burnside house, Ditchburn Place. Ref 15/2171/FUL. Burnside house was built in 1935, designed by County Architect Samuel Ernest Urwin. It faces Mill road and is situated behind the bus stop, within the curtilage of Ditchburn. City Council have put in an application to demolish this house in order to extend the care provision. Lucy Walker and Ian Bent on behalf of MRHS have begun the process to get it designated as a Building of Local Interest (BLI) like its sister building on site, the Nurses Home, and the original core of the Workhouse. They have also started the process to get the whole site Grade II Listed. Lucy has

so far received no response from the city council. Many thanks to Lucy Walker for doing the architectural research for Ditchburn house so far.

**Action** – Lucy to write to the council again to say she will be submitting a listing application for Ditchburn Place.

5. Michael Long (CU Social Anthropology PHD student) Michael is doing a study about how people understand and respond to their environments and change taking place where they live. Michael has been using oral interviews from MRHP to help his study. Michael is leaving to live and work in China for 1.5 years but when he returns he will be in contact with MRHS again.

6. Plan programme for coming months. Ideas - smaller group or research evening with material from MRHP including identifying photographs; 'how to' sessions eg. to do an oral history, research a building, write hard copy or for the web; visit Cambridge collection; research Great Eastern street Caribbean connection; talk to Freudian slips; evening 'On Identity' similar to session at the MoC 2014; speakers? eg. Pat Richards who researched and wrote about Brookfields hospital for infectious diseases, and Ditchburn Maternity Hospital (the changing role of midwives).

**Action** - Caro Wilson and Julia Ewans to bring suggestions for an Autumn/Winter/Spring programme of events, and an MRHS leaflet to May's committee meeting.

7. Treasurers report - a large final report regarding MRHP, with invoices, has been sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). When this has been processed Julia is hoping that MRHS will have approx £2000 in funds. MRHS currently share a bank account with Mill Road Bridges.

8. Any other business (AOB). Dales' Brewery. A person in Australia claims to have a Dales' Brewery sign approx size 6"x3". Members would like to see a photograph and know how much the seller would like to sell it for, before making any commitments.

**Action** - Allan to e-mail Tamsin to enquire about a photo and price for the sign.

9. Next meeting on Tuesday 3rd May at Julia's house (16 St Barnabus Court) at 4pm.