

Minutes of the 2010 Wychurst Site Meeting

The meeting convened at the Scout hall at approximately 1800hrs.

Attendees:

Alan Tidy	Kim Siddorn	Folo Watkins	Julie Watkins	Roger Burton
Kevin Cowley	Adrian Pinn	Ingrid Pinn	Tom Pinn	Jesper Lorenzen
Chris Boulton	Paul Assheton	Tom Gibson	Grace Williams	Kevin Lawless
Ian Lewis	Alison Offer	Paul Cobbett.		

Apologies and comments were received from Steve Etheridge and Stephanie James.

1) Previous minutes

- i) These were agreed by those present (above) as a true representation of the proceedings dated 14th Nov 2009.

2) Coordinator's report

- i) An abridged version of the Coordinators High Witan report was relayed to the attendees (see attached)
- ii) AT also stated that an application for a Heritage grant to the amount of £100,000 has also been initiated. Progress is dependent on final designs being reached and nominally approved, so an accurate costing of materials can be presented to the Grant Committee.

3) Departmental Head reports

- i) Groundsman - Kim Siddorn
 - a) There have been substantial improvements to the site and it is maturing nicely. The right hand side being quite idyllic in parts.
 - b) The Fire Lake has been planted with a selection of plants by Dave Coleman. Also Druid contributed lilies and frogspawn to the lake. The latter of which has seemingly contributed to the wellbeing of the lake's solitary inhabitant.
 - c) The Mound¹ has been flattened to create a useable surface upon which the boat builders may work, or alternatively the sighting of a building.
- ii) Foreman – Kevin Cowley
 - a) The floor is down.
 - b) There has still been no progress to the fighting platform. This has mostly been caused by the absence of the necessary scaffold poles.
 - c) There is a requirement for a 1000 litre water container to be placed in the sump on the south face of the burgh. Such things are obtainable on EBay.

Action: KC to source the container

4) Planning

- i) The Forge
 - a) AT apologised for forgetting to bring any drawings of either buildings, but promised to send out copies to all attendees when the minutes are published.
- ii) The Craftwork Building

- a) Likewise there was an absence of any drawings regarding the Craftwork Building (CWB). AT apologised for this and made an identical promise.
- b) AT enquired whether the singular permanent device that would find its home in the CWB, the Horizontal Loom, had any chance of being made. KC stated that it was a simple construction. But no volunteer has yet come forward to construct it.
- c) KS stated that Paul Waddington will donate a vertical loom to Wychurst when the building has been completed.

iii) The Gates

- a) Canterbury Steel Fabrication (CSF), the company approached in August to make the gates, denied any knowledge of receiving any instruction to make the steel framework for the gates.

Action : AT to find original drawings and pass to AP to resubmit order to CSF

(This has now been done, though Kim will be using his local fabricator).

iv) The Site as a Whole

- a) AT submitted a rough drawing (conceived in consultation with KC and KS) which identified various points around the site where permanent Wics and small cottages could be erected, either through the normal Wychurst Project Process or through a Local Group Initiative. The proposal was accepted by those present.
- b) JL requested clarification of the process where Local Groups could build their own structure. AT directed him to the previous minutes where it was explained that Local groups would have the right to inhabit buildings they constructed, but that they would have to undergo the same planning process for all other Wychurst buildings and remain the property of Regia Anglorum.
- c) PC suggested that Sunken Feature Buildings would be a cheaper and useful alternative to the suggested structures. While agreeing in concept that a variety of buildings in various timescales was a useful and informative addition to the building designs on site, this particular idea was abandoned. SFBs were too early compared to the Longhall and the geology precluded their usefulness, as they have a tendency to flood.
- d) AT asked whether there was any credence in having either a Cookhouse or a Bauer House, as both functions could be carried out in the CWB.
 - (1) This was followed by much debate, which resulted in the acceptance that a separate Cookhouse had a real and justifiable presence on site, as the neither the Bauer or Longhall were the correct place for food preparation to take place.
 - (2) No conclusion was reached about the Bauerhouse but it was accepted that neither building would be built within the next ten years.
- e) PC began a long and heated discussion about the central ethos of the Wychurst Project and attempted to apply modern business techniques to how to encourage the rest of the society to participate and understand the project.
 - (1) It was eventually explained by a large percentage of those present that Wychurst has never
 - (a) Had a firm budget to work from.
 - (b) A guaranteed turnout of work force either by numbers or skills.
 - (2) As such, it could not be treated as a business, but used as it can, and when it can, depending on the state of its progress
 - (3) This said – it was agreed that Wychurst should have a mission statement. AO suggested that it could be something as simple as “Wychurst is <Regia’s> Spiritual Home”.
 - (4) However, AT will write a technical spec for the requirements that Wychurst should be capable of fulfilling to allow Regia to feel at “home”.

f) Coppicing

(1) KC enquired what capability for coppicing should Wychurst be engineered for. Or rather, what trees ought to be planted now, for harvesting in circa ten years' time?

(a) There was mutual consensus that the area available for coppicing would never be that great, especially with the availability of Chestnut in East Blean wood, which whilst requiring someone with the appropriate qualifications, we have been given a qualified remit to coppice.

(b) JL stated that he had such a license, which opened up the possibility of such an activity in the following year.

g) A break for Dinner then followed and the meeting resumed at approx 2100hrs.

v) Fighting platform

a) After discussion it was agreed that scaffolding should be hired to complete it during the Easter Work Weekend.

vi) Remedial Works.

a) CB stated that the Longhall roof has various leaks which should be able to be fixed with the application of brown ground sheets and mastic. This method was chosen because

(1) They would be invisible under the shingles.

(2) Thin enough not to disrupt the angle of the shingles or loosen them

(3) They would be easy to slide up under the shingles where leaks are found, and finally -

(4) They would not be subject to sliding back out again and thus restoring the leak.

b) IL stated that the French Drains around the rear of the hall still require clearing which should also be carried out during the Easter Work Weekend.

c) IL also pointed out that both sets of steps up to the palisade, near the longhall, are collapsing.

5) Any other business

i) 12th Night.

a) An email detailing the date has already been sent by KS. It also stated that tickets will be £12 per person with those volunteering to be dedicated cooks during the day, to be given free entry.

b) The menu has been considered as being, Cheese, then Soup, then Cold meats, then a main course of Fish finished by Dessert / King Cake.

(1) Various people questioned the appropriateness of Fish as a main course, as it was not seen as *that* popular compared to meat.

c) Numbers would be limited to 60 persons.

ii) Catering in general.

a) IL asked AT whether he thought that catering had improved this year.

b) AT responded that in general, it had, although this month aside (as TG cooked for the first time) the pool of cooks has not increased.

iii) Toilets

a) It was proffered that with the creating of the archery bund (which itself was not seen as a perfect location) the toilet facility would need to be relocated.

(1) This issue will require looking into as people.

iv) Drainage improvement.

a) KC stated that a mole drain is required to drill through the causeway at the front of the burgh

v) Bees.

- a) KL asked what the Coordinators official view was, regarding the bees on site.
- b) AT stated that the bees were no on his radar so long as it did not divert resources from, or affect directly the rest of the Project. And so long as it remained invisible to the public, then it can carry on regardless.
- c) AT did question whether they could appear to be authentic, but as they will never be able to be on site without having a 30ft diameter clearance from any member of the public, then the point is redundant.

vi) Improved Use of the site

- a) Stephanie James asked in her posted question, whether there could be improved use of Wychurst, now the Longhall has been mostly finished.
 - (1) AT asked whether the summer work weekends could be sacrificed over to this purpose. KS stated that in principle he would not be against the concept, though portaloos and hired in water would need to be arranged.

6) In Closing

- i) The meeting closed prematurely at 2128hrs due to severe lack of enthusiasm.
- ii) Other matters not able to be raised during the meeting or directly relating to the year ahead will be raised at the beginning of the Easter Work Weekend.