

## LANSDOWNE MONUMENT

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019 IN THE CLANMAURICE ROOM, BOWOOD HOTEL, SPA AND GOLF RESORT, DERRY HILL, CALNE, SN11 9PQ

#### **Present:**

Cllr Christine Crisp (CC), Calne Rural  
Cllr Alan Hill (AH), Calne South & Cherhill  
Cllr Robert Merrick (RM), Mayor of Calne  
Cllr Richard Jones (RJ), Deputy Mayor of Calne  
Cllr David Evans (DE)  
Cllr John Cavanagh (JC), Chairman of Cherhill Parish Council  
Anne Henshaw (AH), CPRE  
Deborah Bassett (DB) Founder of LM Campaign Group  
Rachel Sperring (RS), PA to Lord Lansdowne

**Also Present:** Clare Muir (CM), National Trust (NT), Assistant Director of South West Region, Nathan Ward (NW), National Trust Senior Building Surveyor

#### **ACTION**

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Lord Lansdowne (LL), Tony Trotman (TT), David Dillamore (DD) and Glenis Ansell (GA).

#### **2. Introduction from Clare Muir**

Served in RAF for 23 years. Joined the NT in June 2019 on a five-year fixed contract to drive forward key projects. Very familiar with local landscape. Responsible for Avebury & Stonehenge property portfolio, A303 road scheme & landscape and A417 missing link. Previously visited LM in June.

#### **3. Response to Actions from previous meeting**

CM confirmed she had been fully updated by Hilary McGrady. DB asked what authority CM had in relation to driving LM project forward. CM responded she was responsible for the Avebury and Wiltshire landscape portfolio, which included LM, and had also been fully briefed by colleagues on the background & matters discussed at previous meetings.

JC reported the huge passion/anger in the local area had increased due to lack of communication and continuity from NT. CM understood need for NT to build trust within local community. DB felt meeting with Hilary McGrady in January was ineffective. CM again acknowledged the anger and frustration felt over the past 10 years. AH confirmed long history of poor communication from the NT had fuelled tempers. CM acknowledged the LM is emotive because people feel passionate about it and whilst appreciating and understanding the scepticism is focussed on moving forward and building relationships.

#### **4. Update on progress of Wellington Monument (WM)**

CM confirmed timeline highlighting a significant move forward: Scaffolding to be erected mid/end October 2019 (*post meeting note: the scaffolding has now been erected*)

During winter the stone will be prepared  
Major repairs to start Spring 2020  
Completion Summer/Autumn 2021

### **Funds**

Total amount required to restore the WM £3,450,000.  
Amount raised to date £2,800,000 via external and National Trust funding.

CM highlighted that the £2.8m is made up of £1million from Libor and £0.8m from internal National Trust funds. A further £1m has been raised thanks to support from Highways England, Historic England, Viridor, Wellington District Council, Taunton Deane District Council, and a range of other generous donors. CM noted that this gives a good representation of the expected/required 'mix' of funding for LM and why she would be keen to explore potential funding channels to explore with local stakeholders.

NT had taken risk and agreed to start work despite shortfall of £650,000. This has been achieved by having a break clause in place – should the full funding not be achieved some of the later phased work will not be completed.

### **5. Lansdowne Monument (LM)**

NW confirmed they would wish to use same team from WM restoration for LM. NW expects LM works to be easier. CM confirmed LM project could only commence once WM was completed. AH raised question why WM given priority over LM. CM responded that NT did not want to fundraise for two Monuments simultaneously as this would hinder progress and success for both.

DB questioned why NT had not acknowledged offers from local companies of free stone and free scaffolding. CM said the NT would be prepared to look at this, but stone required is from a specific quarry and must be the right spec to avoid issues in the future. *(Post meeting note: DB provided the details of the quarry to NW and CM and this offer is now being explored more fully as it is from a potentially suitable quarry)*

AH advised that NT must be open to these ideas to help build trust. CM acknowledged this and understands frustrations and wants people to feel heard and involved going forward.

AH asked CM for assistance with the retrospective planning application for the LM scaffolding. CM agreed to contact Planning Officer Simon Smith. AH to give CM Simon Smith's details. *(Post meeting note: these contacts were made immediately after the meeting and that the relevant parties are linked and have the relevant information to progress this application. We understand that it is likely to be considered in Dec.* RM questioned the delay to LM if WM break clause comes into effect. CM confirmed this should not impact on the start date of the LM project.

**AH/CM**

New timeline for LM to be confirmed and sent to all attendees.

CM suggested the formation of a Project Board, which could include up

**CM/NW**

to two representatives from among local stakeholders. CM said that there was no compulsion to join the project board, that it was not appropriate for her to choose representatives, but that she would be happy to welcome people on to the board that were forwarded by local stakeholders. This needs to be considered. DB expressed her interest in joining the Board as founder of the Group, which has approximately 6,000 signatures of support.

CM discussed need for everyone to work together. WM success has come from County Council, District Council, local community and NT pulling together. Community engagement means better placed to receive HLF funds.

CM made an offer to meet everyone individually, should they find this useful as she wished to understand individual perspectives. She additionally suggested day trip to WM as a potential way to build engagement but that this might better be sequenced in 2020 once work on WM was progressing in earnest (*After meeting note: CM spoke to the Project Manager for WM and she has agreed that it would be valuable to visit the project and/or meet local stakeholders involved. We can determine as a group when we might best like to schedule this*).

CM

**Following Discussion it was Resolved:**

CM/NW to confirm new timeline for works to LM  
Project Board created with two representatives

**6. Fundraising**

AH suggested a presentation including sketches, history of LM to capture interest and fundraising. JC highlighted Cherhill website had extensive information on LM. RS to confirm if Bowood have plans of LM.

RS

It was suggested that it could be useful to erect an information board explaining future plans for LM. DB suggested adding fundraising link to board. RM suggested a QR code. CM stated that the Director General had previously given a 'green light' for local community to start fundraising. CM to confirm what NT will allow on the land and board.

CM

CM confirmed large donations for WM came from grants and that this will be essential to success of LM. CM stated that she had spoken to Nick Croxson (Historic England). He had stated that he would be happy to attend future meetings.

CM

**Following Discussion it was Resolved:**

CM to advise and update on design and location of board.  
Fundraising bank account to be discussed and created.  
Fundraising to commence.  
RM to research QR code option.  
CM to confirm NT restrictions on land.

**7. Car Park**

CM advised this was not possible due to Highways regulations. No further discussion.

**9. Any Other Business**

AH expressed concern LM has been on 'at risk' register for 10 years. CM agreed in a perfect world no properties would be on the register. NW confirmed there were only two WM and LM, which helped them prioritise these structures.

**CM/ALL**

CM explained a commercial loan was not viable as a funding source as no income stream is envisaged from the monument. RJ questioned the NT's £490,000,000 income and 5.5 million members. NW confirmed the NT's large liabilities, something which was discussed in the meeting with the Director General.

CM asked how people would like to engage and be kept updated. AH suggested a group email. CM confirmed she would update group on WM progress by email. CM suggested contacting local MP (James Gray) as this was critical in opening doors for fundraising.

**10. Dates for Future Meetings**

The following date for a future meeting of the Lansdowne Monument to be held at Bowood commencing at 2.00pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was confirmed.

**ALL**