

Sawbridgeworth Local History Group
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday
29 September 2016 10.00h – 1130h

at The Council Chambers, Bell Street

Present – Theo van de Bilt (TB), John Rider (JR), Edna Richardson, Gill Munroe, Joan Willitt, D. Willitt, Chris Catling (CC), Hilary Matthews, Terry and David Royle (DR).

1	Apologies from Chris Finch, Hazel (HM) and David Mead (DM), Denise Ings	Action (to be taken)
2	U3A or UDI? Introduction from Theo regarding the main agenda item: do we stay within U3A set-up or go our own way, if so what do we do next. A full discussion followed using JR's pros and cons list. There was unanimous agreement that going our own way would provide more flexibility and give us easier access to grants, partnerships etc. TB agreed to draft and circulate emails to absent group members seeking their agreement or objections within a week and to Paula Milton. Ongoing support from the Council is assumed. We know Eric Buckmaster is supportive. Links with U3A history and/or for example photography groups (re history walks) etc. still possible and welcomed.	TB
3	Next steps: agreed that we need a constitution and officers. TB will see what is available from other Herts history Groups and CC from the Hatfield Heath group. TB to be acting Chairman, Hazel Mead Treasurer, DR Secretary. At some point we will need to agree a focus, what members are interested in and Council priorities. We could also make an appeal for memorabilia.	TB/CC
4	School links: DR has been pursuing this as part of his visits as mayor; may be more of a Council than a history group link	DR
5	Funding: District Councillor Graham McAndrew is offering support to TB on recording High Wych history; once we have a constitution and work programme in place we can explore funding from grants from the Town Council etc.	TB
6	Website: Leventhorpe are willing to help through their student voice programme; DR is in contact with them as mayor so can pursue further once we have a brief on what we want. We can look at other similar sites.	TB/DR
7	Publicity: we expect to publish articles in Church and Town, The Flyer and CM21; we might eventually do a presentation as a group at the Annual Town Meeting and/or Memorial Hall.	TB/All
8	Reports: limited progress on pubs but the gate has a summary of its history in the front bar; HM is still working on who lived where with support from TB; CC has identified a number of older residents and historical printed resources to follow up.	DR/DM HM CC
9	Speakers: agreed to postpone possible talk by Jenni Kemp author of ghost history of Stortford (some coverage of Sawbridgeworth); she was seeking a fee of £35; we could ask Bob Reed to talk about landscape history	DR
10	Next meetings to take place at 10.00h on Thursday 27 October and 24 November (Chamber may not be available on that day so 17 th or 1 December may be alternatives TBC).	DR

David Royle 031016