

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30th MARCH 2016

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (54)

There were apologies for absence from Martin Maggs, Margery Barnard, Lynne Finnerty, Anthony Evans, and Peter Goodchild

There were seven potential new members Anne and Tony Gooding, Kathleen Coyne, Ann Robinson, Patrick and Molly Browne, and Andy Roberts.

The minutes of the last two meetings were taken as read and signed, and will appear on the website at a later date.

Mary thanked the church for the use of their meeting place, and for their catering facilities.

Robin updated the members about the latest situation regarding the former pavilion at Barton Green. He had attended a meeting at Coombe Girls School called by Councillors Pickering and Roberts to inform residents about the site. There had been three applications to build which were being considered by the council officers (Chand Patel also being present). These were from two nurseries and a charity. The nurseries would want to building for day time use and one of them wanted to hire it out in the evenings, whilst the charity wanted to use it between 7pm and 9pm weekday evenings for classes. The council were unable to tell us the names of the interested parties, but obviously residents would prefer the applicant who would use the property least because of noise and parking. The officers intended to make one application their preferred option and would put this forward at the next Neighbourhood meeting where councillors would be able to make their comments as would members of the public. It would then go forward to the Growth committee who would make the final decision.

Mary then spoke about the pond at the Plough. It had recently become polluted and this was being dealt with. The application to the Heritage Lottery for £100,000 was still being considered, but more should be known shortly.

We then had an interesting talk from Ian West about the former Coombe Hill Farmhouse which stood on Coombe Lane and is now the site of the Coombe Hill Schools. The demolition took place in 1969, leaving only 28 days to record the building which was the core of the farmhouse. The building was part of the Cambridge Estate, and water from the conduits at Coombe passed under the site, the site of the wells clearly marked.

Ian himself spent eight days recording his finds. The building was formerly listed as Grade II. Originally built as a two storey brick house orientated east-west in about 1650. In around 1700 a wing two storeys high was added to the south east corner and in 1780 part of the original building

was refaced. Two other extensions were added in about 1790 one to the east of the house and another built into the courtyard with the windows being altered. A major reconstruction took place around 1810 and there were additions to the south and west, followed by a small extension to the east of the entrance.

Further extensions were added around 1840 to the south of one of the wings and the interior was remodelled. Finally, a large wing was added in about 1860 on the east side together with a single storey in the courtyard.

Modern additions had been fireplaces and cupboards and a barrel vault projecting from the cellar and a sun lounge built in the 1950s/60s.

The roof tiles removed dated to between 1620 and 1700 but as this was before dendro dating was possible it was impossible to date the timbers. The windows were covered by shutters not curtains. Generally speaking, the front of the building was “all show” whilst the back was terrible. Ian was thanked for his interesting talk which was accompanied by slides.

The vote for the Town Pride Award then took place, which each member allowed up to three votes out of the fourteen candidates. The result would be announced next month.

Julian then gave the members an update on the society’s website highlighting the additions that had been included recently including the late Tom Kelley’s spreadsheets detailing the properties in Malden Road and Coombe Road from Kelly’s Directories from 1898 to 1971.

In AOB information was requested about the What ho café, and firewatchers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Julian mentioned that he would be laying wreathes on behalf of the Heritage Society in commemoration Cyril Barton and Humphrey Firman. Members were also told that Cyril Barton’s portrait in the Watchman had been moved and that we hoped that a similar one of Ian Bazalgette would join it in its new location.

Finally, before we closed the meeting Julian asked whether members would help put their chairs away to help the stewards of the church.

The meeting closed with the next one planned for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.