Sticklepath Heritage Group DRAFT MINUTES 1st March 2016

1. Introductions

IN ATTENDANCE:

Derek Moore (Chair) (DMH)
Alison Cruse (minutes) (AC)
Pam Matthews (PM)
Dora Cowland (DC)
Emma Delow (ED)
Peter Williams (PW)
Don Reason (DR)
Yvonne Reason (YR)
David Bubear (DB)
Terry Holman (TH)
Val Loader (VL)
Ross Fisher (RF)
Mike Bourcier-Maye (MB-M)
Debbie Massey (DMa)
Charlie Massey(CM)
Brian MacMahon (BM)
Richard Long (RL)
Caroline Long (CL)

2. Other possible invitees and apologies for non-attendance

Apologies have been received from Mike & Libby Watson, Tabbin Almand, Ian Bowkley, Malcolm Brewer, Tania Murrell. Invitations to join the group to be extended to Val Barnes, David & Anne-Marie Bowles,– **DMH to chase**

3. Notes of last meeting and matters arising not on the agenda

Minutes were agreed as accurate

DMH asked for volunteers for clerking future minutes. None were forthcoming

4. Incised Stone and Honest Man - update Ross Fisher

RF has chased up Andy Crabb archaeologist – he is still waiting for equipment. Historic England will be in touch. He is currently following up lots of leads. Rosemary Cramp – author of 'Corpus of Anglo-Saxon sculpture' - has listed our stone as being medieval (or post-medieval). DNP believe it is Saxon or earlier. He will follow this up.

Devonshire Assn – earliest ref to stone is mentioned in DA article of 1873 when they talk of it being 'replaced'.

Lintel stone at Ladywell – the old lintel stone had crosses on it. This has now gone (eroded?). Ladywell was built 1831 – 2 yrs after the road was widened. Where did the lintel stone come from?

1962 – the road was further widened & the stone moved and turned.

Should we move the stone? RF says that DNP have a budget & he is talking to them.

PW suggested contacting long-time residents, including John & Maureen Horne, Terry & Steve Compton. This village used to be called South Town in medieval times.

All agreed there is a need to obtain the living memories.

DB – Suggested we search the minutes of Sampford Courtney PC (as we were once within that PC) - speak parish Clerk; also Chris Walpole. DMH has spoken to Chris Walpole & he is willing to help.

PW will talk to Chris Walpole, Shiltons, Anne Marie Bowles & Mrs Dorothy Clarke.
DHM to contact Samford Courtney PC

5. The Ladywell - update Pam Matthews

TH – reported on a survey carried out in 2007 on the drain. Appears to be a blockage rather than break in pipe. Repairs likely to be expensive. Might be worth considering funding via English Heritage.
PM – has spoken to Stan; there are constant problems at the header tank in Bowdens Yard.
CM has noted pond in the yard area on an 1888 map. Water used to run into 2 gullies either side of the road, running through the village. Toilets used to empty straight into the river / leat.
YR – water supply for the east end of the village was taken from run-offs from the fields.

Should we be concerned about getting the water flowing again, if it encourages people to drink the water – we cannot guarantee the hygiene / safety of the water.
An alternative could be to install a drinking source direct from the existing water supply.
Parish Council to take this further

6. Archiving - documents, photos and tapes.

Bert Stead's slides etc **Val Loader**

VL has many slides but very few photos. These were originally given to Roger Bowden but have now been discarded or lost. She still has more to upload, and some paperwork relating to chapel. **TH will go through photos with VL to see if he can identify any of the people.**

PW – Andy & Louisa Fletcher had lots of maps & history etc of village. **PM to contact.**

Village Hall storage and displays **Parish Council**

To be discussed at PC meeting

Beacon article and plans for oral history collection Ali Cruse

Article has appeared in the Beacon & there has been some interest.
ED also has digital recorder. More volunteers are needed to take recordings.

How do we keep the recordings? We need a written note of salient points, but also need to keep recordings on digital media

DMH asked all members bring anything of interest to future meetings.

Leaflet drop **Brian McMahon**

Draft leaflet handed round. MB-M willing to print. Agreed on format

Dartmoor Trust Archive **- scanning and editing**

The Parish Council has access to the DNPA archive. Tony Clarke is able to put photographs onto this archive, but volunteers will be needed for scanning, editing and monitoring the content. We may be better off having our own web based archive which we will have direct access to. The cost of running a website is £20 p.a. approx, & approx.. £250 to develop a website.
CM – dropbox is not expensive to run, but is not easy/intuitive to use.
DB – can we set ourselves up as a charity? PM – we could got through the PC.
CM - there are grants available
This will be discussed at Parish Council meeting.

DB – has spoken to some-one who will produce history of electricity supply to village, also details about supply of water to the east end. He has taken on a project to photograph every property in the village. He produced a schematic drawing of the properties. He has also identified 8 properties that were once post offices. He is keen to locate properties with wells and bread ovens.

Discussion on Skaigh Lane – this runs from Surgery Cottage to Belstone. The lane at Ladywell is Cleave Road, up to Higher Sticklepath, from where it is renamed Skaigh Lane, up to Belstone.

7. <u>Publications</u>:

WI booklet update **Charlie Massey**

CM – doesn't think we should update this. It is an historical account. DB – this was probably written by Eleanor St Leger-Gordon. Suggest we aim to digitise the 1955 copy. Should we start again to produce a village history, based on different themes / projects?

Bob Barrons' book on Finch Foundry

DMH has chased Ben Shapcott to find out if there is anything new on the foundry history – can they share it with us? No response yet. He was invited to come tonight but is unable to make it. Will invite him next month

Beacon

Wendy Moore is trawling through past issues of Beacon and highlighting relevant articles. There is very little about Sticklepath – we need to increase the amount of copy submitted. Someone from the group could take a lead on this.

Village Walk **Ali and Pam**

No further update. The leaflet needs to be amended

CM is keen to have a 'village history walk', when we have enough detail to share.

To be followed up

8. <u>How to do history</u> **Charlie Massey**

CM – 'historians …. do not reconstruct the past'. It's not just what's happened, but what's written about what happened & how it's interpreted. It should be a-political.

CM has information on how to write history – anyone can contact him to obtain a copy.

9. <u>Specific interests</u>

Roads **Charlie Massey**

CM showed that by looking carefully at the landscape there could be challenge to previous historical assumptions, for example that Sticklepath was on a very busy road to Cornwall.

During medieval times the road appeared to turn left at the bridge, along Skaigh lane & across the river by the ford. But this may just have been to avoid paying tolls across the bridge. Was this the main road, if there were pubs/businesses on the current road ? There was important economic activity here, which points to an important road. Salmon fishing was possibly an economic activity here.

1760 was the Okehampton Turnpikes Act, which created the road from Okehampton towards Exeter

House Histories and family histories - proposed competition, AM & MB-M

Ask people to write up a house history – Prize for adult/child. To seek sponsorship for prizes. To include whether their houses have a well / bread oven / other significant features

DB & DMH to take this forward.

10. How to display Sticklepath – logos and tea towels

Should we consider a logo for Sticklepath which conveys some of its heritage?

11. Notes and Actions – to record tasks, lead responsibilities and reporting

- DMH to invite Val Barnes, David & Anne-Marie Bowles
- RF to follow up on Incised Stone
- PW to speak to Chris Walpole, Mr/Mrs Shilton, Anne Marie & Mrs Dorothy Clarke.
- DMH to contact Sampford Courtney Parish Council
- Ladywell – agenda item for Parish Council
- TH to go through photos held by VL to see if he can identify the individuals.
- PM to contact Andy & Louise Fletcher
- All members to bring anything of interest to future meetings.
- DMH to invite Ben Shapcott to next meeting
- DB & DMH to follow up on house history competition.
- DMH to send out information on Local History Network with the minutes.

12. **Nominations: 3 places Dartmoor Local History Day – Saturday 14th May**, Parke, Bovey Tracey. Contact Penny Bailey pbailey@dartmoor.gov.uk
We are now part of Dartmoor Local History. Anyone interested in attending Local History Day please let Derek know. **Agree attendance at next meeting after agenda for Day arrives.**

Here is a Local History Network based on the Devon Rural Archive – they have expertise which they can make available to history groups. **DMH will send out information with the minutes.** They are dedicated to the study of buildings & landscapes.

13. Any other business

DB is seeking information on Alder Meadow and Uncle Johns Meadow.
ED agreed to help with oral histories
MB-M happy to help with family history, & will work on-line after he moves to France.
Also sent apologies for next meeting

14. Date of next meeting.
Tues 12th April 7pm

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Devon Rural Archive: Local History Network

Do you belong to a local history society or specialist group?
Do you know a local history group in your parish?

If so get in touch with Devon Rural Archive to discuss how you can work together to promote and preserve the extraordinary history of this County. Their aim is to bring local history societies together to share ideas, knowledge and expertise. They have excellent facilities and expanding resources and so the DRA is perfectly placed to provide a hub for collaborative projects, exhibitions, events and research.

The overall intention is to establish a local history society contact in each parish and to form a network that will help preserve the rural history of Devon.

The DRA is dedicated to the study of buildings and landscapes across Devon.

The archive is open every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 11am and 3pm (excluding bank holidays). There is no need to book and no charge. The DRA hope that in making contact with local history groups they will also encourage members to visit them and make use of the resources on offer.

To join the **Local History Network** contact the Devon Rural Archive on 01548 830832 or email office@dra.uk.net