Minutes of the WAS Committee Meeting held on March 18th 2025

Present: Keith Bolton (on phone), Alan Beazley, Sarah Brewer, Amie Friend, Theresa Griffiths, Liz Lane, Vicki Lillywhite, Connie Shirley, Gill Turner, Donna Whitchurch, Jennie Williamson.

1. Apologies from Cheryl Hutchins and John Mills.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting and 3. Matters arising. Gordon is already an Hon member – Alan/Liz update lists.

4. GDPR – nothing to say.

5. Trustees – nothing to say.

6. Field Unit Update: Sompting – we admired the Charles 1 farthing and bone comb found in John's midden...Only scraping to clean, but lots of finds. Connie to take a gazebo to site. Burpham – Possible Survey training? Connie to find bench marks. James S., John Mills and Ed had a site visit to discuss where things will go. Ed has cut back all the undergrowth in the paddock, and will go back in April to check again. Check that folk coming from W'ing Museum are under their insurance? As there is a locked gate, we can store equipment on site – in the Finds tent which will be next to the forge. ?Sectioning. (Alan found the ladder in the store and he checked kit at Slindon, has given a list of what's left after kit for Sompting has gone.) Context numbering – continue from last year? OK because different site code - BFF.
   Highdown – PD feedback – Keith has contacted James and James re environmental sampling – Mike Allen? We need tins, etc. WAS folk not really qualified to do this... Need a budget for this, and methodology. It's only worthwhile if we have a ditch. Calling notice going out end of March.
   Slindon '03 and '04 – bone is with David.
   Climping – on hold for the present.
   Knepp Castle – Richard Neville has sent details round – may overlap with Highdown, Keith has emailed him, awaiting reply. Lots of detail needed – parking? Access? We need to know more before we proceed further.
   Bignor – poor communication – put on back burner for now. No time frame for the report.
   Finds Meetings April 3rd and 17th, cancel 1st May – Burpham. 15th May to go ahead unless we need the weekend for Burpham.

7. Finance – Gill needs to buy bags, labels, soil sample bags – get an idea of the cost and see if Museum can share? Alan had a Statement of Finance – no great expenditure yet in 2025 for comparison. Decided to hang on to our No 2 Res machine.

8. Membership – 150 Members currently, including Life and Hon Members. Almost all have now paid their subs – thanks to Alan.

9. Newsletter – to go out at the end of next week – anyone with things to include, let us know.

10. Insurance – Connie now in charge – no change and all done for 2025, a minimal increase.

11. Study Day – Sarah Green on Animal Bones – decided for Donna to see if we can hold it in the College – Museum unlikely to be open before next Winter. Costs more...

12. Lectures – Theresa. Amie on Smugglers in April. October David Rudling on Threats to our Archaeological Heritage. November Simon Stevens on his Cooden Project. December Connie and John Mills on Sompting Malthouse/Whitehouse. Liz to ask James to do a Highdown Lecture in 2026 – will do one in February – John Pull Lecture. Other possibilities – Richard Neville on Knepp? (N.B. Matt Pope made no charge)

13. New laptop – Most Lecturers bring their own, so not so urgent. Study Days? We must bear in mind that some members might not have their own/might not be computer savvy. Our machine will eventually become obsolete.....

14. Other events – James Sainsbury Clapham Walk in Memory of Alan and Chris. Sunday April 6th, 10.30 at Clapham Church car park – car share where poss. 2 mile walk. David Stubbings has offered some bone training – Liz to get back in touch – wait until after Sarah's Lecture? BHAS & Henrietta doing Burpham – keen to do more...

15. Website – all fine. Don't put anything yet on about Highdown or Burpham. Do it retrospectively. In future, leave Journal off the website for 6 months.

16. AOB – Donna – will sort out more Day Schools once Museum back in running.
Liz – Gary Baines (Shoreham Fort) has given WAS 2 copies of a training manual for 'Taking Care of Monuments'.

17. Date of next Meeting – Tuesday May 13th.