Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on October 21st 2025

Present: Keith Bolton, Alan Beazley, Sarah Brewer, Theresa Griffiths, Cheryl Hutchins, Liz Lane, John Mills, Connie Shirley, Gill Turner, Donna Wiltshire.

1. Apologies: Amie Friend, Jennie Williamson.

2. (and 3.) Taken as we went.

4. F.U. Update: Burpham Park Field– provisionally last week of August/1st week of September – will depend on crop etc. David Staveley has offered to do Geo-phys. This will be a self-financing dig – not under the auspices of the Museum. Iron Age/Roman site. We will have the Finds tent and parking/toilets at Peppering Farm. Possibility of trial test pits/auguring/fieldwalks... to be discussed. If a field walk is done, keep pottery, flint – we know there's Mesolithic – CBM can go.
   Highdown 2027 – targets to be decided , but follow up trench H. David Staveley will do Geo-phys. Will be funded. Areas to consider also trench F and area between F and D – concentration of Finds. ? barrow West of H?
   Slindon '02/'03 - Liz to collect bone from David and get to Keith.
   Climping – no recent visits.
   Sompting - Connie has to talk to Mark re finishing up – weather is not helpful. Connie wants it all covered over. Next year go east and also possibly west into the hedge (Ed's wall). Process to be a) Finds shed sorted, need to photograph small finds – this week? b) Outline for Connie and John's Lecture – slides, etc.
   c) Survey data to be processed for the Lecture.
   d) Write Report. 2024 Finds done, have to be put on computer. 2025 to do after Highdown finds. Aim for an outline to be done before next July. Assess volume of Finds this week. Dig 20th July to 2nd August.

5. Finds Meetings: 6th & 20th Nov and 4th December. 18th Dec to be Finds 'party'.
   Post-ex – Sompting – more glass, looking at clay pipe bowls 1680 – 1720 majority. Also 1580 pipes. Catalogue needs to go on computer. Liz W is doing the metal. Found jetons 1560- 80.
   The Burpham Forge Field pottery is with Luke. Part of a Bronze Age hammer was found (Jane had it identified at the British Museum). Gill is putting Finds on the computer.
   Highdown – Gordon is working on the pottery, mostly Roman, handful of Saxon. Once Gordon sorting has finished, Finds will start processing Highdown pot, hoping to take 2 or 3 sessions to finish. (Then, in January, start Sompting Finds.) 1 Middle-Palaeolithic flint was found. John Mills said that maybe, as Highdown was so high up, the normal movement with Ice Ages etc didn't affect it's top. Bones are with ASE & Hayley. John is working on trench H, and will finish by next week.
   October 30th, in shed, Trench G (Highdown) 16 folk – update and record. Alan suggested use of AI to shorten the write-up/type up process.
   The Toolshed is filling up fast – broken stuff going to the tip. Soil samples have gone. Gill has the Parham records and drawings. They need to be deposited in the shed. – there's never been a Report.....

6. Finance – Alan presented the figures. Total station upgrade needed, could be expensive. We're in the red, but not too bad. Highdown costs tipped the balance.

7. GDPR – nothing to say.

8. Trustees – nothing to say.

9. Membership – we have several new Hon Members – Sue Harrington, Mike Allen, Gary Baines, Andrew Reynolds and Hayley Forsyth-Magee. Antonio Reis not yet contacted. Now 24 Hons, 13 Life and approx 142 Ordinary Members. Total approx 179.

10. Newsletter – thanks to Alan for the glamourising! Next one due end November.
    Journal – Keith has done 12 pages on the history of Forge Field/sieges of Arundel. Liz to approach James re Burpham report. (It is underway)

11. Insurance – just covered.

12. Study Days – Bones day, November / Snails next year. Suggested topics to think about – ?Glass – ?John Shepherd – from Roman onwards. Tristan Bareham – ancient crafts, Reconstructions – practical topics. Donna to follow up.

13. Research Group – Meeting Nov 18th to help John/Connie with their Lecture. Lots of good history, 16th Century Sompting.

14. Lectures – November Simon Stevens, December Connie and John. Mike Allen January, February James H and Highdown, March Bob on the Vikings, April Sue Harrington 5th/6th Century S Coast burial grounds.

15. Changing manual – Keith to look at this – inclusiveness, etc. Needs to be brief and to the point.

16. Other events – Nov 7th Social at Black Horse – 22/23 signed up. Need raffle prizes..
    Dec 18th Finds party.
    Hopefully Flint Sessions will resume in January.
    Winter Walk – Storrington?

17. Website – 210 views in Sept/Oct, majority on Highdown, getting started in Archaeology, Events.

18. AOB – none

19. Date of next meeting – 27th January.

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