

NENTHEAD MINES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No 2

8 July 2012

SOCIETY NEWS

The society was launched at the inaugural meeting at Nenthead on 13th May, attended by 80 people. Peter Jackson was appointed as Chair and Sheila Barker as Membership Secretary. Peter asked for volunteers for the 5 other committee positions. The following people stepped forward and were elected:

Nick Green, Alistair Myers, Ray Hall, Ben Jackson, Peter Wilkinson

The committee has now met three times. The constitution is now published on the Society website at www.nentheadmines.com. If you do not have access to the website, we can arrange to supply a paper copy if you send a letter rate stamped addressed envelope.

We have applied for a bank account and we hope that we will soon be able to start enrolling members and accepting subscription payments. We will send copies of the membership form to everyone who asked to be on our mailing list. We will also publish the form on the website.

Members who completed an application form on 13th May at Nenthead will be sent an invoice for their subscription.

The Society has applied for membership of the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO). We have been accepted as provisional members. You can read more about NAMHO at <http://www.namho>.

NEWS ABOUT NENTHEAD MINES

The administrator of NPHT has disclaimed the lease of the site. This means that the landowner, Cumbria County Council (CCC), is now responsible for the site and buildings (except for the NPHT freehold areas).

The administrator continues to be responsible for the NPHT freehold land at Brewery Shaft, Mill Cottage and the Power Station. Mill Cottage is on the market. A prospective buyer of Mill Cottage has now withdrawn.

We met the CCC land Agent on site at Nenthead on 13th June 2012. The meeting had two objectives – to help CCC refresh their knowledge of the boundaries, buildings and features of the site, and also to hold informal discussions about ways that the site might be managed in the future.

Following the site visit, an outline business plan

including a summary of the Society objectives was sent to CCC. This plan assumed that the lease and freeholds would be transferred to a new company limited by guarantee. The plan asked for an annual subsidy from CCC of about three thousand pounds. CCC has discussed the business plan with a consultant from the North of England Civic Trust.

CCC has asked that the Society continue to work with them towards finding the solution for Nenthead.

We are likely to be involved in more meetings in the near future.

Peter Jackson

EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF NENTHEAD MINES

As part of our business plan, we needed a summary that explained why Nenthead Mines is important. This is our draft of the words so far.

“Nenthead Mines is a nationally important site because it retains an authentic mining landscape, with original buildings, waste dumps, reservoirs, a massive underground mining network, and important geological sites above and below ground. Most of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and portions are designated as a SSSI. Its importance lies in the existence of these natural and historic features.”

INFORMATION

The Society is operating an email news list. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please send an email to info@nentheadmines.com.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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