

## Polstead Road History Project.

Notes on second meeting at:  
28 Polstead Road on 4 November 2025 between 18.00 and 19.00

### Present:

Liz Wade, convener and chair (28)

elizabeth.wade@ntlworld.com

Derick Wade, note taker (28)

derick.wade@ntlworld.com

Kay Symonds, (10)

kay.symonds@gmail.com

This meeting covered many issues, and the main issues are documented.

### Newspaper archive.

There are digitised, searchable electronic records of newspapers and Kay has made extensive progress, documenting interesting material relating to Polstead Road in an Excel spreadsheet. Interesting events included the discovery of a stillborn child, comments on the relief of Mafikeng, reports of house sales by auction and burglaries, and many other items that gave insight into life locally over the last century.

### Website.

We agreed that having an active website as soon as possible would help encourage people to participate and demonstrate progress. This led to a discussion on its structure and on the eventual output from the working party.

An initial structure (book and website) might be centred around:

- **houses;**  
with information relevant to each house being given
- **the street;**  
covering matters such as street parties and other incidents involving the street rather than a part of the street
- **history,**  
of the road: discussing events within the road, developments and other physical and structural matters
- **history, social:**  
discussing how changes in the occupants of the houses and their interests, and the activities taking place reflecting a history of society locally
- **people:**  
considering information about people who lived in the road, what they did so on
- **associated businesses:**  
an opportunity to discuss pub, the St Margaret's Institute, businesses occurring in the houses such as Alliance Francais

- **a blog:**  
posts discussing progress and the matters relating to the development of the project
- **an archive:**  
a section to access resources

**Eventual output.**

We discussed again the matter of producing a book how that might relate to the website. We concluded that they were complementary rather than competitive. The book could be a more permanent record of the more notable features, whereas the website develops and changes and could act as a significant historical resource.

**Oral history.**

We discussed again how to obtain and document people's histories. We agreed to investigate more. The principles appear fairly straightforward:

- a) people providing information must always know what information is of interest and being collected
- b) if anything is recorded for transcription, we must state clearly the expected processes and outcomes. They must always be able to review the outputs before they are made public, and they must have control over what material is archived for future use.
- c) anything produced from written notes and memory should be checked with the person who gave the information
- d) a person should be able to censor anything without explanation
- e) all data must be handled in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

[We will need to register with the Information Commissioner's Office.]