

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
3 MARCH 2008**

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Charlesworth, Dowling, Pragnell
(in the Chair), Soan, Waite and Webb.

Museum Association Representatives: Mrs Barrett, Mr
Peak and Mrs Purdey

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Adams, Ms Cornish and
Miss Reed.

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10
December 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true
record.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes as
indicated:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Armstrong	30) Offers to Purchase	Prejudicial – is a trustee of Horntyte Park
Webb	24) Museum Attendance and Website Figures	Personal – is a Member of East Sussex County Council

24. MUSEUM ATTENDANCE AND WEBSITE FIGURES

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented a verbal report to
inform the Committee of the Museum attendance and website figures.

- Hastings Museum and Art Gallery attendance from October 2007 to
December 2007: 5674
- School visits: 493, outside workshops: 265
- Website hits: 15, 266

It was also reported that there the daily average was up on exhibitions
and there were ongoing external workshops with schools. However,

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there had been less visits to the Old Town Museum, partly due to the popularity of the Turner painting in 2006.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25. FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND LOANS

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a verbal report on forthcoming events and loans.

In November the Turner painting will be on loan to an exhibition of Channel views by Turner and Bonington. The exhibition will be shown at the Museum from May 2009 to August 2009. When the Turner painting is on loan, the Long Gallery will be re-hung for a year with a selection of paintings on a theme of interiors.

The feather cloak will be on loan to an exhibition about Polynesian art in Paris.

Upcoming exhibitions included a Japanese print exhibition, in October an exhibition of Bedouin jewellery and an Autumnal exhibition on magic lanterns.

28 weddings are booked for this year and there will also be four concerts.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

26. CONSERVATION ISSUES

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a verbal report relating to the ongoing programmes of conserving Museum items, including putting photos in plastic sleeves, keeping frames in good condition etc. The assistant Curator and Archivist will provide a list of items prioritised for conservation.

Councillor Charlesworth asked for an update at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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27. WEST LODGE

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented the above report verbally, regarding West Lodge.

The Burton St Leonards Society are working on a temporary display for the gardens which are opening on the 21 June 2008.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if there would be anyone opening the gardens. Kevin Boorman, Head of Destination Management & Marketing, said that they would be looking at that in the next few weeks depending on budget and availability.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28. DIGITISATION OF MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHS

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented the above report verbally, to inform members of the ongoing project to completely digitise all of the Museum photographs. 2,500 photographs have so far been scanned and IT preparing a prototype that will be brought to a future Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29. RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a verbal report listing the recent acquisitions, which included:

- A smuggler's cosh
- Park Road Methodist Church documents
- 1940s women's magazines

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

30. OFFERS TO PURCHASE

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a verbal report detailing recent offers to purchase. These were:

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- a collection of archives from Priory Cricket Club
- three bronze age axes found locally last year and declared Treasure Trove
- a painting offered by a dealer in Tunbridge Wells by W.G Moss

RESOLVED that the Curator consult with the Chair on any acquisition once funding was identified and the Committee stated an order of preference of:

- 1. the bronze age axes;**
- 2. the Priory Cricket Club archives and**
- 3. the painting by WG Moss.**

Councillor Armstrong, having declared his prejudicial interest, left the room during this item

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.46 pm)