

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
9 JUNE 2008**

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

Museum Association Representatives: Mr Adams, Mrs Barrett, Mr Cornish, Mr Peak, Mrs Purdey and Miss Reed.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Waite.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

2. 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 Hornty Park

Councillor Webb declared an interest if anything related to the County Council arose during the course of the meeting.

3. MUSEUM ATTENDANCE AND WEBSITE FIGURES

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented a report to inform the Committee of the Museum attendance and website figures. Victoria said that attendances this quarter were the highest recorded for over five years.

- Hastings Museum and Art Gallery attendance from January 2008 to March 2008: 7137
- School visits: 651
- Website hits: 17, 219

Councillor Charlesworth noted that the school projects seemed to be very popular and were covered well in the local press.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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4. VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRES

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a report providing an analysis of visitor questionnaires completed between July 2007 and May 2008.

At a previous meeting, Members requested to see the results of on going visitor surveys carried out at both Museums. A total of 37 forms were completed for the main Museum and Art Gallery and 29 for the Old Town Hall Museum although not all questions were answered by the respondents.

Mr Peak said better signage was needed on the Old Town Museum as people only seem to find the Museum by chance. Victoria said that they were in the process of changing the windows to include new signage.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a report to consider the Museum's Acquisition and Disposal policy which required updating in line with the new requirements of the Museum Libraries and Archives Council's Accreditation Standard and was due for review in 2008.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. LOAN POLICY

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented the above report to review the Museum's loan policy to be adopted in 2008 and reviewed in 2013.

A copy of the loan policy was circulated with the agenda for information.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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7. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

The Museum Curator, Victoria Williams, presented the above report to update Members on the mounting of commemorative plaques and to consider alterations to the selection criteria.

Mrs Purdey asked why there was no budget provision for plaques which should not be funded from the Museum as the benefit was to the town rather than to the Museum. Councillor Pragnell said he would mention this to the new Lead Member for Marketing, Councillor Peter Finch.

It was also agreed as a good idea to consider plaques to mark sites and buildings of interest as well as to commemorate individuals.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Commemorative Plaques Panel be reconvened.

8. CONSERVATION

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a verbal report regarding Museum artefact conservation. Two new humidifiers have been purchased as the old ones were damaged.

A quotation has been received for the restoration of the grandfather clocks which will be placed in the new extension to the Museum. The cost of restoring four clocks will be in the region of £2,440 and it was requested that the Brassey Fund be used to cover the expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET: that the Brassey Fund be used to pay for the restoration of the clocks.

9. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

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

- Mace-bearer's robe and tricorne hat
- Items relating to Edward Blackmore
- Parking ticket for Fishmarket, price 6d

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RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Chairman sign
Certificates of thanks to the donors

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt' information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
11(E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraph 4

11(E). OFFERS TO PURCHASE

Victoria Williams, Museum Curator, presented a report updating Members on developments regarding the three offers to purchase, discussed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.30 pm)