

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**  
**22 JUNE 2009**

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Cartwright, Charlesworth, Finch (in the Chair), Martin and Webb

Museum Association Representatives: Mrs Barrett, Ms Cornish, Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Soan, Kevin Boorman, Mr G Adams and Miss Reed. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Webb.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following councillors declared their interests in the minutes as indicated:

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Minute</u>  | <u>Interest</u>                       |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Cartwright        | 5 – Museum Events (in so far as that related to an exhibition of portraits and drawings by Jake and Dinos Chapman) | Prejudicial - Extended family members |

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**3. ACTING CURATOR'S REPORT**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members on matters carried over from previous meetings, which were not included in the agenda.

Cathy Walling, agreed to include an item detailing Sponsorship of Museum Objects within the next report. She would seek a response to her enquiry from the Council's legal services..

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**4. ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum and Gallery's website for the fourth quarter of 2008/2009.

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The attendance figures were slightly down during the first quarter, compared to the same quarter of last year. However the total figure had increased.

Members suggested possible reasons for this, such as snowy weather conditions and a power cut which occurred during that period. Councillor Finch added that there had been an increase in Website hits overall, but not during one specific period. Cathy Walling reported that the updating of the website was under investigation. A new look website should increase usage.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**5. MUSEUM EVENTS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming exhibitions and educational activities.

These included:

‘Coasting - Turner and Bonington on the shores of the Channel’;

‘Indian Summer’ - A contemporary and historical response to colonial India; and

Portraits and Drawings by Jake and Dinos Chapman.

Educational Events and Activities:

Indian Summer;

First floor walkway displays;

A display of work inspired by Turner's Fishmarket on the Sands by St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Churchwood Community Primary School & The Conquest Centre; and

Display of work inspired by Indian Art from Blacklands Community Primary School, Herstmonceux CE Primary School, and possibly Rye College and Filsham Valley School.

New publication:

A companion leaflet to last year's very successful Ethnographic Imaginings poetry booklet, called, “More Imaginings” had just been published.

The Committee congratulated Cathy Walling on the excellent “Coasting” exhibition.

Cathy Walling orally amended her report in respect of the proposed centenary exhibition. She explained that the report should have referred to February 2011 being identified as the centenary of the death of Robert Tressell.

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Steve Peak expressed concern about the loss of local history exhibition space in the Old Town Hall Museum after this summer, when the Old Town Information Centre moved in. Cathy Walling agreed to look into using space in the main Museum for local history exhibitions.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**6. REVIEW OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report on an updated Acquisition and Disposal Policy. She also agreed to look at the policy in respect of the keeping of human remains and to report back.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to adopt the new Acquisitions and Disposal Policy.**

**7. LOANS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report on loans from the Museum collection.

A loan of a total of 41 items has been requested by Brighton Museum and Art Gallery for their exhibition, "The Land Girls: Cinderellas of the Soil".

In consultation with the Chair, the Acting Curator had agreed a Rye Art Gallery request for the loan of the oil painting of the Central Cricket Ground by Bill Day. This had now been returned.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**8. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of items acquired by the Museum since March 2009. This included a notebook with scale drawings of Draper's Mill, drawn by Maurice Portnell in 1934. The Committee requested that the Acting Curator investigate whether a local television company would be interested in making a programme based on this item.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Chair sign the acknowledgments of thanks to the donors.**

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**9. OFFERS TO PURCHASE**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report for Members of the Committee to consider the acquisition of various items. A confidential list of items to be considered for purchase was submitted in part II of the meeting.

**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**

| <b><u>Minute No.</u></b> | <b><u>Subject Matter</u></b> | <b><u>Paragraph No.</u></b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11E                      | Offers to purchase           | Paragraph 4                 |

**11 (E) OFFERS TO PURCHASE**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report for Members to consider the acquisition of various items.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.50 pm)