

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
14 SEPTEMBER 2009**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Reed.

**12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

**13. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June  
2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**14. ACTING CURATOR'S REPORT**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to update members on matters carried over from previous meetings, which were not included in the agenda. The report also contained information about two loans confirmed by the Chair since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that: -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Acting Curator to report back on the suggestion by Lesley Cornish that work by the artist Charlotte Snook be considered for inclusion in the Museum's collection; and
- (3) the Acting Museum Curator and all of her team be congratulated on the success of the current Indian Summer exhibition.

**15. ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for the first quarter of 2009/2010.

The numbers of visitors were slightly down during the first quarter, compared to the same quarter of last year. However the numbers of pupils in organised groups had increased.

**RESOLVED** – that: -

- (1) the report be noted; and

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- (2) **the Head of Destination Management and Marketing together with the Acting Museum Curator investigate ways of highlighting the location of the Old Town Hall Museum.**

**16. MUSEUM EVENTS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming exhibitions and educational activities. The 'Indian Summer' exhibition would be the focus for a major programme of activities and events. Details of these were contained in the report.

Steve Peak asked about local history exhibitions. The Acting Curator confirmed that Local History exhibitions would be considered in the future programming for the main gallery at John's Place.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**17. SPONSORSHIP OF MUSEUM OBJECTS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report updating the Committee on progress in respect of a suggested scheme for sponsorship, or adoption, of Museum Objects. Preliminary research by Legal Services had found that such a scheme would be possible. The Committee was asked to indicate how it wished to proceed.

**RESOLVED - that the Hastings and St Leonards Museums Association discuss the proposal regarding sponsorship of museum objects and report back to this Committee with suggestions to progress the matter.**

**18. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report on subjects for commemorative plaques. Because of a lack of resources there had been no further developments since September 2008, when the Committee received a spoken update.

Further suggestions for commemorative plaques had been received and were reported, as follows: -

Raymond Williams, the late academic; and  
Muriel Matters, the suffragette.

These would be added to the list to be considered at a future date.

Marion Purdey reported that Frances Bedford, MP for Florey, South Australia has expressed an interest in funding the installation of a plaque to Muriel Matters. She had lived at 7 Pelham Crescent, now owned by the Council.

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The acting Museum Curator commented that Listed Building Consent would be required for the placing of a plaque on this property.

**RESOLVED – that: -**

- (1) The Hastings and St Leonards Museums Association to carry out the necessary investigations into Muriel Matters and the Acting Museum Curator to progress the matter subject to confirmation of funding from the Adelaide Museum Association; and**
- (2) the Acting Museum Curator report back to the next meeting on all proposals for commemorative plaques.**

**19. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Kevin Boorman, Head of Destination Management and Marketing, orally reported on the effect of the Council's Senior Management Review, currently underway, on the management of the Museum. It had delayed plans to increase the hours of work for two part time members of staff and to alter the job description of a third. It was likely that he would no longer be part of the management of the Museum.

Marion Purdey reported that Hastings Museum and Art Gallery was an accredited museum which allowed it access to funding. Without the appointment of a Curator it might lose its accreditation.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted and Kevin Boorman be thanked for his dedication and hard work on behalf of the museum and in promoting the town.**

**20. REMOVAL OF OLD TOWN TIC TO OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM**

Kevin Boorman, Head of Destination Management and Marketing, orally reported on the Removal of the Old Town Tourist Information Centre to the Old Town Hall Museum. The work would start in the last week of November and existing equipment would be utilised. Staff at the Old Town Hall Museum would be trained in the basic Tourist Information Centre operation.

In answer to a question from Steve Peak, Kevin Boorman confirmed that the move was likely to be permanent. He also said that a new signage regime would be introduced.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

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**21. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of items acquired by the Museum since June 2009.

**RESOLVED** – that: -

- (1) the report be noted and the Chair sign the acknowledgments of thanks to the donors; and**
- (2) the Acting Museum Curator to approach Mr Wilson to enquire about the possibility of further donations of memorabilia from Wilson’s Bakers, Kings Road, especially photographs of the interior.**

**22. 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.

**23. 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>
24E	Offers to purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9

**24 (E) OFFERS TO PURCHASE**

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report updating Members on previous offers of items to purchase.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) – that Cabinet be recommended to approve the acquisition of the item detailed in paragraph 3 of the report at a price to be agreed with the vendor within the limits of the figures set out in the report.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.58 pm)