

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
7 DECEMBER 2009**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Reed.

The Chair announced the appointment of Virginia Gilbert as Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure with responsibility for the Museums. Virginia was in attendance at the meeting.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Cartwright	27 – Acting Curator's Report (in so far as that related to Jake and Dinos Chapman)	Personal – The Chapman brothers were family members

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

27. 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 the History of the World Project, filming in the museum and gave responses to two issues raised by members of the Museums Association related to copying charges and weeds in paving stones.

In respect of the problem of weed growth between the paving stones at the Museum, The Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure reported that this area had now been added to the grounds maintenance contract for regular attention in future.

Mr Peak expressed concern that the photocopying charges at the Museum were too high compared to charges levied elsewhere.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and the Acting Museum Curator give the matter of photocopying charges further consideration in consultation with the Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure and report back.

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28. 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 second quarter of 2009/2010.

The numbers of visitors were slightly up during the second quarter, compared to the same quarter of last year.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

29. MUSEUM EVENTS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming exhibitions, educational and children's activities. She updated the report by informing members that the exhibition on 27 March to 6 June would now be entitled, "Back to the Future".

Mr Peak asked if the Museum could lend photographs or pictures of the East Hill Lift or the Country Park for the official re-opening of the lift on 27 March 2010. The Acting Museum Curator confirmed that she was in consultation with the Amenities Manager regarding this issue and Museum involvement.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

30. 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.

Mrs Barrett orally reported on the outcome of her researches on how this worked elsewhere. She said that corporate sponsorship would be mainly for large events. However, levels of sponsorship for Museum objects could start at £10 - £25. The requirements for a successful scheme were:

A tempting title;

Adequate explanation of reasons to adopt;

Clear definition of financial outlay, possibilities and time limits (Best practice was to keep to short time limits for adoptions so that it was easy to keep track of the sponsors);

Show clearly how to go about adopting objects; and

"What's in it for me". Label objects, produce a public list of adopters or sponsors and possibly hold annual events especially for them.

Mrs Barrett expressed her wish to assist the Acting Museum Curator in the preparation of any follow-up report to the Committee.

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Mr Peak expressed concern that donors of objects to the Museum should receive a similar level of acknowledgement.

Councillor Finch, the Chair, asked if statues could be included in any sponsorship scheme. The Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure said that these were in the care of Parks and Open spaces, part of her department.

RESOLVED – that: -

- (1) the Acting Museum Curator be requested to develop a scheme for the sponsorship of museum objects and report back to this Committee; and**
- (2) The Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure report back on the possibility of the Museum taking over responsibility for the care and display of statues held by the Council.**

31. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report updating members on subjects for commemorative plaques. She reminded members of the priorities agreed for 2009 – 10 by the selection panel on 4 September 2008 and of one outstanding from the 2007 – 8 suggestions.

Further suggestions for commemorative plaques had been received, as discussed at the meeting on 14 September. Progress with regard to these suggestions, and in respect of a plaque for Alan Turing, were reported. Additional information about Raymond Williams was circulated by Councillor Webb. Mrs Purdey reported the continuing interest from Mrs Frances Bedford, in sponsoring a plaque for Muriel Matters.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and the Acting Museum Curator report back on the possibility of a sponsorship scheme for commemorative plaques and of ways of seeking suggestions for plaques from members of the public.

32. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure orally reported on the effect of the Council's Senior Management Review. She also reported on an internal review of her department on which members of staff were being consulted. The Museum restructure was progressing and she envisaged being able formally to appoint Cathy Walling as Museum Curator.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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33 MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

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

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

34. 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>
35 (E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9

35 (E) OFFERS TO PURCHASE

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report on two new offers of items to purchase and updated members on progress in respect of a previous offer.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that: -

- (1) Cabinet be recommended to approve the acquisition of the item detailed in paragraph 1 of the report at the price reported, to be funded from the Went Tree Trust; and**
- (2) The offer of the item detailed in paragraph 2 of the report be declined.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.50 pm)