

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
1 MARCH 2010**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Armstrong

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Charlesworth	10 Statues and Memorials	Personal Alexandra Park War Memorial
Martin	10 Statues and memorials	Personal Alexandra Park War Memorial

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

38. 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 Acquisition/Recording of Heritage Items and the History of the World Project.

Mrs Barrett mentioned that the Conservation Officer was not always able to protect items before they were destroyed. Virginia Gilbert, Head of Resort Services and Amenities, will speak to the Borough Planning Officer.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that the Head of Resort Services and Amenities report back after discussion with the Borough Planning Officer.

39. 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 third quarter of 2009/2010.

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Mrs Purdey congratulated museum staff on the rise in attendance figures for the last quarter.

Concern was expressed that parts of the website were not kept up to date. Virginia Gilbert and Cathy Walling will speak to the, E Comms Manager. Museum staff update news weekly. Cllr Cartwright asked for an update on the website for the next meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that the Acting Curator and Head of Resort Services and Amenities report back after discussion with the E Comms Manager.

40. MUSEUM EVENTS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming exhibitions, educational and children's activities. Cathy confirmed the date of 6.30pm on 4 March for the Conversation with Jake Chapman.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

41. 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.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

42. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report updating members on subjects for commemorative plaques. Suggestions were:

2010: Muriel Matters, 7 Pelham Crescent
2011: Sidney Little, Bottle Alley
2012: Alan Turing
2013: Edward Lear

There are enough suggestions to keep the scheme running for some years.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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43. STATUES AND MEMORIALS

The Head of Resort Services and Amenities, submitted a report, which was presented by Resort Services Manager, to provide information regarding condition, ownership and extent of our statues and memorials. A valuation has been received with regard to ' Harold and Edith'. Sussex Marble thought the statue was not worth restoring. Possibility of relocation and cleaning. A suggestion was made to relocate Albert to the Town Hall and the Head of Resort Services and Amenities to speak to Town Hall Facilities Manager.

Councillor Charlesworth suggested a brown sign be erected at St Mary's Church as sailors from the Amsterdam are buried there. Councillor Finch will raise this matter at a meeting of the Pebsham Countryside Park Management Committee.

Mrs Barrett told the meeting that the war memorial at Ore Church was dedicated on 6 February 1921 and that the cleaning of this memorial was much appreciated by local people.

RESOLVED – that:

- (1) the Acting Curator works with the Conservation Team and Environmental Services to identify possible funding opportunities; and**
- (2) works with stakeholders to find a new home for Albert.**

44. VISITOR SURVEY 2009

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of a survey conducted by GHK Consulting to look at the benefits of Heritage Lottery Fund projects on local economies. 60 visitors to the Museum were asked to complete the survey and while visitors were found to have spent some money in the local economy, the Museum did not play a role in attracting visitors to spend money in the local economy.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

45. 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.

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46. 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>
47 (E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraphs 2, 3, 4

47 (E) OFFERS TO PURCHASE

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

RESOLVED that a decision on items 2, 3 and 4 be taken after valuations have been received.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.55 pm)