

MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
28 JUNE 2010

Present: Councillors Cartwright, Chowney, Hodges, Martin and Webb (in the Chair)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Charlesworth and Catherine Reed. Absence was noted from Cllr Finch.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Cartwright	8) Request for Loan	Personal – The Proprietor and Editor of Bohemia Village Voice is known to him.
Webb	8) Request for Loan	Personal – The Proprietor and Editor of Bohemia Village Voice is known to him.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. 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 reproduction of museum exhibits and permission for film screening and statues and memorials.

Cathy Walling re-confirmed that issues concerning the storage of archaeological material, disposals to other museums and outstanding access issues in the Dinosaur Gallery would be reported in the draft Museum Forward Plan in September for comment. She added that 50 items were expected, 37 from Winchelsea.

Other issues were raised by Members during the discussion included customer surveys, local exhibitions and budgets. Councillor Webb confirmed there would not be a reduction in the budget till 2011/12.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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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's website for the fourth quarter of 2009/2010.

Mr Peak stated that since the Information Centre and Museum have merged, the attendance figures have increased by over 50% for both museums. Cathy Walling added that there had been a decrease in website hits overall.

Cathy Walling recommended a site visit to the museum, to enable Members to view the Museums core activities. The arrangements for this site visit will be confirmed.

Mr Adams questioned the position regarding the information centre and the museum. Cathy Walling confirmed that Kevin Boorman, Marilyn Barnes, Nick Sangster and Cathy Walling will review the Old Town Hall.

Cllr Cartwright asked for a list of purchases made in the museum. Cathy Walling confirmed this could be done. She also added that additional items had been added to the shop, most of which were small items.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

5. MUSEUM EVENTS

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

These include, amongst others:

- 'Outside In' – selection of work from the Pallant House Gallery exhibition. Supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
- '100 Years of Girl Guiding in Hastings and St Leonard'; and
- 'If a Picture's Worth a Thousand Words' - Project Art Works exhibition. 10th July -19th September;

Events:

- Finds identification with Sussex Finds Liaison Officer;
- Teachers' Drop-in session, looking ahead to autumn programme;
- Concert by 'Symphonie';
- Outside In Workshop – family storytelling;
- Relic – Guardians of the Museum. Based on CBBC programme and part of BBC's History of the World project;
- Family Workshop with Creative Landscapes'; and
- Heritage Open Days.

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Steve Peak expressed concern regarding the lack of local history exhibitions. He suggested regular space should be provided. Cathy Walling confirmed that a quarter of all the exhibitions were local history exhibitions.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

6. MUSEUM WEBSITE

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to update the Committee on progress of the museum website.

Members noted that work to the website, in respect of the news and calendar event sections had been completed and phone numbers and contact details were up to date.

Erica Barratt informed the Committee she had experienced technical problems in viewing the 360° virtual tour of Durbar Hall, whereby the pictures remained static. Cathy Walling confirmed this part of the web site was undergoing work as part of the Councils programme to overhaul all of its web sites within 6-8 months.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

7. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report updating members on the programme of mounting commemorative plaques.

Cathy Walling advised that Listed Building Consent had been applied for the placing of a plaque on 7 Pelham Crescent. Members were informed of the timescales involved in obtaining consent to mount the plaque in time for the unveiling ceremony on 4th August 2010.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. REQUEST FOR A LOAN

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

A loan has been requested by Bohemia Village Voice for a model of Bohemia House to display in the shop window at 79 Bohemia Road for July and August.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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9. DISPOSAL OF IRON-WORKING MODELS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to dispose of 2 models of Wealden Iron-working which were taking up space in the Corporate Archive.

Members discussed a number of options to dispose of the models. Erica Barrett recommended the Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society (SIAS branch) as a point of contact. Cathy Walling agreed to contact them to see if they would be interested in the models.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

10. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of items acquired by the Museum since March 2010.

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

11. 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>
12 (E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9

12 (E) OFFERS TO PURCHASE

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to Members to consider the offers to purchase various items.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.35 pm)