

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAREHAM TOWN MUSEUM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011 AT 7.50 P.M.

Membership: Councillor Mrs D Cleaton (Chairman), Mrs A C Dominy, Mr J Hale, Miss V Neal, Mr M O'Hara (Curator - Ex-officio), Mrs L Seymour-Smith (Vice Chairman - Assistant Curator Marketing), Councillor Mr M Wiggins, Mr D Tucker (Curatorial Adviser), and Mr T Spencer.

Present: Councillor Mrs D Cleaton (Chairman), Mr J Hale, Mr M O'Hara (Curator – Ex-officio), Mrs L Seymour-Smith (Vice Chairman – Assistant Curator Marketing) and Miss V Neal.

Also present: Museum Volunteers: Mrs J Hale, Mrs S Cranshaw, Mrs A Tighe, Mrs J Webb, and Mrs G Graham.

Officer in attendance: Mrs K Richardson – Administration Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mr M Wiggins, Mr D Tucker, Mrs A C Dominy, Mr T Spencer and Mr B Buxton

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Wareham Town Museum Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2011 be received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

5. CURATORS REPORT

The Curator reported that:

- Mr Colin Beale was resigning as a volunteer from the Museum due to ill health. The Committee thanked Mr Beale for his many years of volunteering.
- Visitor numbers are up on the same period last year.
- The two winter projects "The Sounds of Wareham" and "The Sandford Potteries" are now operational being part funded by Dorset County Council and the Jurassic Coast Heritage Fund. Special thanks to Mr J Hale for devising the Sounds of Wareham Project. The Sandford Pottery display has attracted donations and loans of objects made at the potteries.
- The Curator would like to welcome Mr T Spencer as a new volunteer.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Curator's report be noted.

6. MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There was no Museum Representative's Report.

7. INFORMATION(SALES/VISITORS/WEBSITE)

Mr J Hale reported that:

The website had received 18515 hits, an increase of 1091 hits since the last meeting. 75 % of visitors were first time visitors to the website.

Visitor figures to date were: 1,002.
Sales to date were: £245
Donations to date: £255

It was:

RESOLVED that the above information be noted.

8. ONGOING PROJECTS

Audio Trail – The Curator reported that this project is on-going. John Hale reported that the audio equipment used at Dorchester Museum was very expensive and a less expensive option needed to be sourced.

Sounds of Wareham – Mr Hale reported this project is complete

250th Anniversary of the Fire of Wareham in 2012 – The Curator reported that there was enough material for a very small display only. Mr J Hale volunteered to supply some audio to accompany a display. The Chairman reported that it was the Chamber of Commerce that wanted to commemorate the anniversary and volunteered to speak to Councillor Adkins with regard to involving the local schools.

Our Sporting Life – The Curator reported that Dorset is an Olympic County and Mr D Tucker is putting together a major exhibition. As a result Wareham Town Museum would be getting a case to put up a temporary exhibition on local sports and he proposed contacting the Rugby Club to see if they were able to help. After the exhibition the case would be retained by the Museum for its own use.

9. LAUNCH OF NEW DISPLAYS

The Curator volunteered to issue a press release on the new displays. Funds had been made available from a grant from Dorset County Council and would be used for an advertisement in the Tourist pull out section of the Bournemouth Echo.

It was:-

RESOLVED that the Curator write a press release with the assistance of the Administration Officer.

10. SANDFORD POTTERY PROJECT

The Curator reported that Mr J Myburgh had offered to make a display stand for the roundel.

It was:-

RESOLVED that the above be noted.

11. QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

The Curator reported that the Museum had a lot of material from the Coronation and would be able to mount a display in part of the Corn Exchange as part of a larger exhibition but the Museum did not have the resources to organise the whole event. The committee agreed that The Town Council would have to take the lead on organising the event and the Chairman would take this suggestion back to Town Council. It would be possible to run an audio commentary of the Coronation.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Chairman would report the above to the Town Council for their consideration.

12. VOLUNTEER'S AVAILABILITY FORM

The Curator reported that he found it difficult to organise standby volunteers using the Volunteers availability form and that all volunteers should ring him if they cannot do their agreed shift. The Committee thought that the form worked well when used correctly and should be reinstated with the Curator's phone number on the form.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Volunteers Availability Form be reinstated.

13. ANY OTHER MATTERS TO REPORT (for information/for next agenda)

- a) Mrs S Cranshaw raised a concern about the recent correspondence that had been in the local press regarding the redesign of the North Causeway roundabout. Confusion had arisen about the replica sword that had been used in the sculpture and its historical significance. The Committee agreed that not enough reference had been made to its rarity and royal markings.

The Curator reported that in the past he had made representations to the County Museum, where the sword is in storage, to have it returned to Wareham Museum on loan however at the time it was felt that Wareham Museum did not have sufficient security systems. There is a current scheme to repatriate items from the County Museum archives to local museums.

Mr B Buxton had volunteered to write a letter to the local press setting out the facts regarding the sword and emphasising its historical significance and royal marking.

It was also noted that the planting at the roundabout was not historic as has been reported in the press.

- b) It was confirmed by the Committee that the Museum would not be opening on Sunday the 12th June.
- c) It was confirmed by the Curator that one skull was still at Bournemouth University waiting to be returned.
- d) Mrs J Webb reported that she had carried out a lot of work on family history and would be submitting a claim for postage to the Museum.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Following discussion it was agreed that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman.....