

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAREHAM TOWN MUSEUM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM ON TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30 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) Miss V Neal.

Also present: Museum Volunteers: Mrs J Hale, Mrs G Graham, Mrs A Dominy, Mr B Buxton and Mr H Elmes. Councillor Mr E Osmond joined the meeting at 8:17pm.

Officer in attendance: Mrs K Richardson – Administration Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Tucker and Mrs A C Dominy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Wareham Town Museum Meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 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 sadly Mr Colin Beale had died. Mr Beale was a long standing, stalwart member of the Museum team and gave many years service on the Committee. A minutes silence was held in his memory. The Curator thanked the Museum volunteers for their support over the season and those who had turned up for the volunteers lunch and he thanked Mrs L Seymour-Smith for providing the catering.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Curator's report be noted.

6. MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr B Buxton reported that there had been two excavations during October 2011. The first was the excavation of the "Roman Road" on Sandford Heath. The excavation revealed that it was not a Roman road and that the banks and ditches had been built up since the road was abandoned in the 18th century.

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The second excavation took place at Holton Lee where medieval pottery and evidence of medieval occupation was found.

A third excavation took place outside the entrance of Westport House, Wareham, where large quantities of clay pipe were found but no evidence of a kiln. It was hoped that the excavation could be continued in 2012. Mr Elmes reported that he thought there was evidence of a kiln in Trinity Lane and this was confirmed by the Curator.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted

7. INFORMATION(SALES/VISITORS/WEBSITE)

Mr J Hale reported that:

The website had received 2060 hits, an increase of 593 hits since the last meeting. 76 % of visitors were first time visitors to the website. He had also amended the website to reflect the opening times in 2012. The Museum will open on the 6th April until the 31st October 2012. The Curator reported that the 13th December 2011 was the 10th anniversary of the Jurassic Coast being inscribed as a World Heritage Site - and remains England's only natural (as opposed to cultural) World Heritage Site. In order to mark this anniversary the Museum had been asked to open for the day along with the other Jurassic Coast museums. It was agreed that the Museum would open and Mr O'Hara would cover 10am-12 noon, Mr Elmes would cover 12-2pm and Mrs Seymour- Smith would cover 2-4pm. Mr Hale would put the additional information on the website.

It was:

RESOLVED that the above information be noted.

8. ONGOING PROJECTS

Audio Trail – The Committee discussed the difficulty of providing an audio trail within the Museum as the displays changed over time and the cost of suitable equipment was expensive. However as this was part of the work required to keep the Museum accredited it was agreed as an interim measure that the Curator would record onto cassette a guide to the Museum which would then be transcribed by the Administration Officer. It could then be re-recorded and the cassette would be available in the museum for visitors to listen to.

250th Anniversary of the Fire of Wareham in 2012 – The Chairman reported that the Town Council had set up a working party to discuss and agree on appropriate celebrations for all the major events that are taking place during 2012, including the 250th Anniversary of the Fire of Wareham. The next meeting would be taking place on the 5th December at 7.pm in the Council Chamber. As neither the Chairman nor the Curator could attend Mr Elmes volunteered to attend as the Museum representative. The Curator reported that it was intended to move the existing display to a more prominent position. Mr Hale offered to provide a sound track for the display.

Our Sporting Life – The Curator reported that he and Mr Buxton had attended a meeting with Mr Burgess of the Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club and were in the process of producing text and photographs for the new display. More information on the size and content of the display cases and panels had been sent by Dorset Museums Advisor. Mr Elmes suggested contacting Mr "Tichie" Watkins as a good source of material.

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It was:
RESOLVED that the above information be noted.

9. EFFECTIVE COLLECTIONS – ACCESSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY IN DORSET

The Curator reported that the Museum had received a grant of £500 to create a display of artefacts which had been previously in the collection of the County Museum. The display would be based on the 1953 excavation of the West Walls including photographs of the original excavation.

It was:
RESOLVED that the above information be noted

10. QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

The Chairman had earlier reported that the Town Council had set up a working party to discuss and agree on appropriate celebrations for all the major events that are taking place during 2012, including the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The next meeting would be taking place on the 5th December at 7.pm in the Council Chamber. As neither the Chairman nor the Curator could attend Mr Elmes volunteered to attend as the Museum representative. The Curator reminded the Committee that the Museum had an amount 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.

It was:
RESOLVED that the above be noted.

11. MUSEUM BUDGET FOR 2012/2013

The Committee discussed the budget lines, the following amendments were agreed.

<u>Income</u>	
Line 4251	- £000

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Line 8501	- £100

The following comments were made:
Line 4251 The Curator was uncertain that the small museum grant would be available during 2012.

Line 8501 The Museum would be participating in several events during 2012 and it was expected that there would be additional expenditure during the year.

Mrs Graham offered to donate an office chair and a vacuum cleaner to the Museum, which was gratefully received by the Committee.

It was:-
RESOLVED that the above be noted.

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

- a) Mr Elmes asked that a meeting for all Museum volunteers be held before the beginning of the new season to update them on new displays and health and safety.
- b) Councillor Mr Osmond addressed the Committee on behalf of the Wareham in Bloom Committee regarding the Wareham Saxon sword that was kept in Dorchester County Museum. He reported that the Wareham in Bloom Committee had agreed to replace the replica Saxon sword that had been stolen from the redesigned roundabout subject to improved material and security. As such they would like to make the new sword a closer replica of the original sword than the previous sword and thought that having the original sword on display in the Town Museum would be a great asset.

The Curator reported that representations had been made to the County Museum in 1995/6 to have the original sword on loan but at that time the request was turned down as the Town Museum could not provide the correct secure cases and environmental conditions. However, since then the Town Museum had achieved accreditation and was now possibly in a position to display the original sword. The Committee discussed the best way of approaching the County Museum with a request to have the original sword on loan and felt that the support of Wareham Town Council was needed. The Chairman agreed to place an item regarding the Saxon sword on the next Wareham Town Council agenda.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 7:30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Chairman.....

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