

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAREHAM TOWN MUSEUM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 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, Mrs A C Dominy and Mr T Spencer

Also present: Museum Volunteers: Mrs J Hale, Mrs G Graham, Mrs A Dominy and Mr E Taylor.

Officer in attendance: Mrs K Richardson – Administration Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Tucker 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 6th June 2011 be received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Page 3 – Minute 12 – Volunteer's Availability Form – Mrs L Seymour-Smith reported that the form was not being completed by all volunteers. It was agreed to send a reminder to all volunteers at the beginning of the next season in 2012.

5. CURATORS REPORT

The Curator reported that:

- Visitor numbers are up on the same period last year.
- He had been in contact with the Rugby Club Chairman regarding the Sporting Life display.
- The Curator and Mr B Buxton had been in contact with Dorchester Museum regarding the Accessible Archaeology in Dorset Project.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Curator's report be noted.

6. MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Museum's Representative was unable to attend the meeting however he sent the following report.

"I attended a meeting of the Dorset Archaeological Committee on 14 July. Lilian Ladle is finishing work at Compact Farm, Worth Matravers as building of the housing development begins. During the digging of the foundations a number of as yet undated human burials were found.

There will be an excavation outside the entrance of Westport House, Wareham, in late September, as large quantities of clay pipe were found during the digging of a services trench, and records show that there was a kiln here in around 1830. Lilian Ladle will be directing the excavation.

The Sandford Heritage Project will excavate a trench across part of the so-called Roman road on Sandford Heath, between 10 and 21 October. Lilian Ladle will be directing the excavation which aims to find out the history of the road and whether a Roman road really does run underneath or nearby."

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted

7. INFORMATION(SALES/VISITORS/WEBSITE)

Mr J Hale reported that:

The website had received 19467 hits, an increase of 952 hits since the last meeting. 42 % of visitors were first time visitors to the website.

Visitor figures to date were: 5342
Sales to date were: £750
Donations to date: £923

It was:

RESOLVED that the above information be noted.

8. ONGOING PROJECTS

Audio Trail – The Curator reported that each time he and Mr Hale planned to proceed with this project a new display is planned for the Museum. As there are two new displays planned for 2012 it has been decided to defer the Audio Trail until after they are in place.

250th Anniversary of the Fire of Wareham in 2012 – The Chairman reported that this is on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting. It was hoped that a working party would be set up to include all the local organisations, including the Museum, 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.

Our Sporting Life – The Curator reported that he had contacted the Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club Chairman to see what memorabilia the club might be willing to loan to the Museum for the Sporting Life display. He is aware that the Wareham Rangers football team have been in existence since before the First World War and he will be contacting them to see if they have any suitable items or photos that they may wish to loan to the Museum for the display. Mrs Seymour-Smith reminded the committee that there are photos of local tug-of-war teams in the Museum's collection.

It was:

RESOLVED that the above information be noted.

9. LAUNCH OF NEW DISPLAYS

The Curator informed the Committee that an advertisement for the Museum which mentioned the new Sandford Display had been placed in the Tourism pull out section edition of the Bournemouth Echo.

It was:-

RESOLVED that the above be noted.

10. EFFECTIVE COLLECTIONS – ACCESSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY IN DORSET

The Curator reported that the County Museum had released a list of items that were available on loan to small museums around the County. Almost all of the items were archaeological and the Curator and Mr B Buxton had identified some items from the 1953 excavation of the West Walls. Roman material found in the bottom layer of the wall included fragments of a roman box flue tile which indicated that a possible villa or a building with a hypocaust may have been located close to the area. It was agreed that artefacts from the 1953 excavation would be loaned from the County Museum to form a new display.

It was:-

RESOLVED that the above be noted.

11. QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

The Chairman had earlier reported that the Town Council would be discussing setting up a working party to include local organisations to coordinate celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee along with other notable events in 2012. 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.

12. FAMILY HISTORY COURSES

The Administration Officer circulated details of forthcoming family history courses to be held in Bridport. It was agreed to pass the information to Mrs J Webb.

It was:

RESOLVED that the above be noted.

13. MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

The Committee agreed to hold the Museum Volunteers lunch on Monday the 21st November. Mrs L Seymour-Smith and the Curator agreed to discuss the catering arrangements separately.

It was:

RESOLVED that the above be noted.

14. MAYORS PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the identification of a portrait held by the Town Council. After an article was published in the local press the gentleman was identified as Spencer Cavendish the 8th Duke of Devonshire.

It was:-

RESOLVED that the Town Council be asked if it intended to frame and hang the portraits.

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

- a) Mr J Hale reported that the display of the oil drill from Wytch Farm had lost its label.
- b) Mr J Hale reported that the TEL DVD would no longer be produced and therefore had been withdrawn from sale on the Museum website. Any remaining copies would be sold through the Museum shop.
- c) Mr T Spencer enquired as to the possibility of there being a sign within the entrance hall pointing to the Museum. It was agreed to ask the Town Clerk if it would be possible to have a sign at the bottom of the stairs saying "Town Council Offices Only".
- d) An invitation to the Launch of the Dorset Manorial Documents Register was circulated.
- e) An invitation for free boat and bus trips for volunteers was circulated.
- f) The new Jurassic Coast Museum Partnership logo was circulated.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Following discussion it was agreed that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 22nd November 2011 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Chairman.....