

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held in The Council Chamber, West Street, Liskeard on Monday 9 June 2014 at 7.30 pm there were present:

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy - in the Chair

The Mayor: Councillor Phil Seeva ex officio

Councillors: James Shrubsole, Rachel Brooks, Roger Holmes

Town Clerk and Minute Clerk Mr Andrew Deacon

The Chairman advised those present of Housekeeping matters

49/14 OPEN SESSION

No Parishioners were present.

50/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Hella Tovar and Anne Purdon, and Duncan Paul Mathews (Old Cornwall Society), the Deputy Mayor Councillor Jane Pascoe and the Museum Curator Anna Monks.

45/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Members declared an interest either Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary.

51/14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2014

The Chairman proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 April 2014.

52/14 MATTERS ARISING

None.

53/14 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR 2014/2015

The Mayor proposed and Councillor James Shrubsole seconded that Councillor Goldsworthy continue as Chairman of the Committee. There being no other nominations Councillor Ian Goldsworthy was **ELECTED** as Chairman for the year 2014/2015.

The Chair nominated Councillor Hella Tovar as Vice-Chairman and Councillor Holmes nominated Councillor James Shrubsole as Vice-Chairman. The Town Clerk

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advised the Chairman that in the absence of Councillor Tovar the election of the Vice Chairman be deferred to the next meeting. The Chairman agreed.

54/14 CURATORS REPORT

The full text of the Curator's Report is annexed hereto.

The Chairman recognised the very hard work carried out by the Curator to gain full accreditation for the Museum. It had been a Herculean task carried out in a truly professional manner.

The Chairman also wanted to minute the Committee's thanks to Jackie Jenkins and Jennifer Matthews for their hard work of cataloguing the backlog of objects from the old Museum.

The Chairman proposed, Councillor Holmes seconded and the Committee **ADOPTED** the Curator's Report.

Councillor Brooks reminded the Committee that there were good exhibitions planned for the Museum including the launch of the Plinths on the 30 September 2014.

The Committee would be looking into the matter of training for the Museum Volunteers.

55/14 PART II (Confidential Session)

There were no matters required under this item.

56/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

57/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Museum Management Committee would be held on a Monday 21 July 2014, if it were thought necessary, but in any event, the 1 September 2014 in The Council Chamber.

Liskeard & District Museum

Curator's Report to Museum Management Committee: 9th June 2014

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 For information: to update the Committee on activity since the last meeting.

2 Accreditation and Project Updates

Accreditation

2.1 I am delighted to report that the museum has been awarded Full Accreditation. There are several conditions most of which involve supplying ACE with updated paperwork and policies. The most important condition is that we complete our documentation backlog (for example cataloguing, labelling and location coding) by October 2015.

2.2 The panel commended the museum for its work on resolving discrepancies in the loans records and identifying loaned items.

2.3 We are all deeply indebted to Jackie Jenkins and Jennifer Matthews who have worked systematically and conscientiously to identify and catalogue the backlog of objects from the old museum. Since April 2011 they have accessioned and catalogued over 2500 objects, giving the museum its most accurate catalogue ever. Without their work we could not have been re-accredited as we would not have met our targets from the previous award,

Viridor Project

2.4 The lighting replacement is complete and we are currently waiting for a decorator to paint the rooms before we can start constructing the new displays. The display cases have been commissioned and we expect will take 6 to 8 weeks.

CHAHP

2.5 The CHAHP projects are in the final stages of development and will be installed in the museum in July in time for the school holidays.

Displays and Interpretation

2.6 I will be working over the next month to prepare wall panels and other interpretation for the new displays.

Website

2.7 The new website is now online at www.liskeardmuseum.org . I am asking for user feedback on the layout before I add much more content. The site has done well in the WAVE accessibility assessment. I chose Joomla CMS as I believe it is directed towards increasing accessibility.

3 Special Exhibitions and Events

3.1 The Bowling Club exhibition is nearing its end and we are grateful to the members of Liskeard Bowling Club for providing an interesting and attractive display.

3.2 We held another successful Children's Crafts session in half term and will hold

more during the summer holidays. We have also hosted visits by the Memory Café who enjoyed using the new memory boxes and the Cleerly Ladies Group who enjoyed seeing our “behind the scenes work” and objects relevant to St. Cleer and its mines and railways.

3.3 The next special exhibition will be the Mazed Project display opening on 28th July. This will make a family friendly installation for the holidays. The Mazed app will be launched at the museum on 2nd September.

3.4 The newly invoked Liskeard Charter Fair (led by the CHAP legacy group) will take place on 5th July. We are hoping to have part of our CHAHP installation in place, but we will provide ancillary displays and space for indoor events.

3.5 On 13th September we will hold the official launch of our new landscape and mining displays in tandem with a lecture by John Manley to launch his new book on William West.

4 Visitor Numbers, Donations and Sales

4.1 Visitor numbers are low so far this year as we only have the downstairs open and we have not been promoting the museum. However, once the galleries are open and the new displays installed we publicise them widely and should increase footfall.

4.2 We are dealing with an ever rising number of enquiries many from overseas.

4.3 Donations reflect the museum experience and should pick up as we open up the museum again.

4.4 I have not had time to purchase much new stock and will have to look at this over the next few weeks. Once the website is working properly I will set up a sales page for easy to post items.

5 Staffing and Training

5.1 Most of our longstanding volunteers have retired in the past few months and we need a recruitment drive. I spend a large amount of time training volunteers and I have a strategy for recruitment but I need help with the implementation as the input required is too much for one part time worker. We currently have two new volunteers who are settling in well.

5.2 I am attending training on curating a geology collection at Bristol Museum on 10th June. This is very timely as geology is moving to the heart of our displays in the reorganisation.

6. Museum Networks

6. We are attending as many networking meetings as possible including the South East Cornwall Museums Forum, the Cornwall Museums Group, The Cornwall Archive Network, The Cornwall Mines and Attractions Marketing Assoc, the Cornwall Association of Local Historians and others. Through these connections we are in touch with county and regional museum developments.

Anna Monks, Curator June 2014