

**MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor M. Freeman (Chairman)

Councillors R. Clark  
M.R. Cotton  
J.H. Dixon  
F. Granger  
P.C.H. Rendle

**ALSO PRESENT**

A. Bevan (Director of Penlee House Gallery and Museum)

11. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, R.M. Lawrence, S.J. Reed and A.J. Richings.

12. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005**

Having been circulated, it was resolved that they should be signed as a true and correct record.

13. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

(a) **Exhibition, Income and Visitor Number Report**

The Director advised that "Painting at the Edge", the main summer show at Penlee House, had attracted 11,500 visitors and this brought the total for the calendar year to date to 27,528 as against 32,810 for the previous full calendar year.

Income currently stood at £68,805.00 and was approximately £10,000.00 down on the previous year, but it was showing signs of recovering and members noted that the very fine weather had contributed to this.

Notwithstanding the above, the Director had been delighted with the national recognition for the gallery in respect of this exhibition, with coverage in the "Spectator", "Antiques Collectables", "The Times" and, in addition to this, top rate coverage in the local press and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

(b) Forthcoming Exhibitions

The Director reminded members that the Charles Simpson Show would be previewed on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September and open to the public on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The show was also accompanied by a book which again should assist with the shop income.

This show would be followed by the Cornish Serpentine Exhibition over the Christmas period which was, again, accompanied by a book written by Mike Sager-Fenton and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Acquisition of Computer Equipment

The Director advised that the acquisition of new equipment was virtually complete, and it was already demonstrating that it would solve a number of problems, and the Director and committee placed on record sincere appreciation for the advice and time given by Councillor Richard Clark.

(d) Acquisition of Paintings/Artefacts - Support of "Friends"

The Director reported on a number of acquisition and gifts as follows:-

(i) Portrait by John de Costa of Marjorie Armstrong at a cost of £3,600.00 covered by the Friends of Penlee House;

(ii) A Thomas Hart painting of a mine at St. Just, subject to final provenance (again with the support of the Friends of Penlee House);

(iii) A gift of a collection of model carts - these are scale models of horse-drawn vehicles made by a Newlyn shipwright and which are most appropriate to the Social History collection;

(iv) A gift of a very large Cryside quilt, again made locally from a number of off-cuts

and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Council record, again, its extreme gratitude to the Friends of Penlee House for their invaluable support and that appreciation be expressed to the donors of the model carts and the Cryside quilt.

The Director referred to the possible purchase of a piece of sculpture by Ernest Proctor and because of the lack of storage and the extremely limited opportunities to display the item, it was

**RESOLVED:** not to proceed with this purchase.

(e) Outcome of Grant Application in Respect of Auction of Painting

As members were already aware, the Director confirmed that £200,000.00 had been obtained from grant-giving bodies in respect of the Laura Knight painting of Lamorna to enable a bid of £170,000.00 to be made, however, at auction the painting had been sold for £180,000.00 but, nevertheless, the committee placed on record its appreciation for the work of the Director in drawing together the grant aid in such a short space of time and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(f) University of East Anglia - Museum Leadership Programme

The Director thanked members for their support which had enabled her to attend the Museum Leadership Programme course and the written report, which had been circulated with the agenda, now appears as Appendix "A" to the minutes and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(g) Museums Association National Conference

The Director advised that if the committee agreed, she would form a part of a team of three who would be presenting at conference on an item entitled "Beyond the Bucket and Spade" which related to the promotion of cultural tourism.

The reduced rate for attendance had been negotiated to no charge for the day of the presentation, £225.00 for the remaining two days, plus £180.00 for accommodation plus rail fare, and the Town Clerk confirmed that there were sufficient monies available in the training budget, and it was

**RESOLVED:** to approve the attendance of the Director at the Conference.

(h) Accreditation

The Director advised that the museum registration process had been revised and renamed as accreditation.

There was a fairly tight time schedule attached to the accreditation process, with a completion date of the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and it would involve considerable work in reviewing current policy documents and in the creation of new policy documents. The relevant papers would be circulated to members for the November cycle of meetings and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(i) Decoration of Public Areas - Penlee House

The decoration of the public areas had now been completed, with staff providing security on the Sundays concerned to enable the work to be carried out ahead of the opening of the main summer show, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(j) The Banner Project

The Director advised that this project had now been re-titled, the “Plein Air Project”.

The Director was working with the Newlyn Regeneration Group and on Bank Holiday Monday she spent the day at the Newlyn Fish Festival with a display stand explaining to people the aim of the project which was to mount replicas of Newlyn School works at the locations where they had actually been painted.

The Director was pleased to advise that there had been overwhelming support for the project and work would continue to finalise the scheme to enable bids for grant aid to be made in due course and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(k) SWMLAC Bulletin - June/July Edition

The latest newsletter had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(l) Friends of Penlee House - Agenda 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and Minutes of Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> June 2005

The papers for the above meetings had been circulated to members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

14. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Park Improvements

The Town Clerk advised that preparatory work was continuing in respect of all areas of proposed improvement in Penlee Park and, where necessary, tender documents would be issued to enable the work to take place in the late Autumn.

The Town Clerk advised that he was still awaiting estimates in respect of resurfacing of the main drive and the railings on the northern boundary which would determine the extent of the improvements to be made and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(b) Woodland Walk

The Town Clerk advised that a detailed plan had been drawn up for improvements to the woodland walk throughout the Autumn and Winter, with a proposal to extend the walk with further tree planting down towards the main field and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Planting of Trees

The Town Clerk advised that of the 40 trees which had been planted last year, only 3 had not taken and these would be replaced in due course. The trees had all been fitted with guards and labels showing their planting date which had been appreciated by the public and it was now proposed that a further 12 to 20 trees be planted at suitable locations throughout the park and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(d) Battle of Britain/VJ Commemoration

The Town Clerk reminded members that this event had taken place in the Garden of Remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> September with over 300 people present.

It had been followed by a reception at the RAFA Gremlin Club in Chapel Street and the Town Council would cover the cost of the keyboard player who was present on the day and make a donation of £100.00 towards the cost of the reception from the hospitality budget in lieu of the fact that the reception had taken the place of the "Cream Tea" which was originally going to be provided by the Council and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(e) Open Air Theatre Season

Whereas Penlee House Gallery and Museum had suffered slightly from the hot weather in terms of visitor numbers, the Open Air Theatre had benefited.

A full report would be provided for the November meeting of the committee, but the initial response from the Acorn Theatre staff, who operate the theatre on behalf of the Council, was that the season had been a great success and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(f) Donation of Benches to Park

The Town Clerk advised that three benches had been recently donated to the park and that suitable plinths had been made on which the benches had been located and anchored.

The Town Clerk had written to express sincere appreciation to the donors and advised that a further offer of a bench had now been received which would be located in the viewing

area at the pond and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(g) UN Day of Peace and Global Ceasefire - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005

A request had been received for the use of the park for the above event which had taken place without any problems over the previous three years and it was

**RESOLVED:** that consent be given.

15. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its finances to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The committee also considered payments made in the month of June 2005 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to approve such payments (see Appendix "B" for both financial position and payments made).

8.10 pm

Chairman  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005