

**MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
held in Penlee House, Penlee Park, Penzance on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor R.A. Mann (Vice-Chairman) (In the Chair)

Councillors M.R. Cotton  
F. Granger  
R.M. Lawrence  
J. Parkin

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mrs. A. Bevan (Director of Penlee House Gallery & Museum)

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, the committee met on site with representatives of Penzance Tennis Club and reference to this meeting is made in the Town Clerk's Report.

Members then toured the park to look at the improvement works being carried out and, again, reference to these works is also made in the Town Clerk's Report.

7. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, J.W Champion, J.H. Dixon, M. Freeman and T.E. Williams.

8. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

**RESOLVED:** that they should be signed as a true and correct record.

9. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

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

The Director advised that income to the end of May 2006 stood at £26,663.00 as opposed to £18,805.00 to the end of May 2005.

Visitor numbers for the financial year to date, ie. April and May, stood at 5,352 which was down on the figure of 6,105 for the corresponding period in 2005.

As members were aware, the Charles Napier Hemy exhibition had now opened and was proving to be extremely popular with excellent feed-back.

There is a book to accompany the exhibition and this has given a welcome boost to shop sales and it was

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

(b) Forthcoming Exhibitions

The next exhibition entitled “A Century of Art in Cornwall” would include works from the Falmouth and St. Ives School of Artists as well as the Newlyn School and, as was indicated in its title, would cover the period 1840 to 1940.

A dictionary was being produced to accompany the exhibition, although this would cover the Newlyn School only for the period 1880 to 1940.

Initial preparatory work was also being carried out in respect of the Richard T. Pentreath exhibition which would cover the Christmas period and it was

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

(c) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item to be discussed, it was

**RESOLVED:** to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(d) Acquisition of Painting

See Confidential Appendix “A”.

(e) Resolution to Re-Admit the Press and Public

It was

**RESOLVED:** to re-admit the press and public to the meeting.

(f) Redevelopment of Archaeology Gallery - Update

The Director advised that work was going to schedule and the opening date is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July which coincides with the start of National Archaeology Week.

A number of events were being organised for children and the Director was grateful for support from the staff of Truro Museum and a number of volunteers and it was

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

(g) House of Images

The Director advised that her investigations are ongoing and that the Royal Cornwall Museum is very impressed with the facilities being offered by House of Images.

One of the problems to be overcome is that a number of the images are held by more than one museum/gallery and there is the potential for confusion in terms of who should receive

the income from any sales.

The Royal Cornwall Museum had persuaded House of Images to waive their initial fee and the RCM has, itself, donated £5,000.00 to the project which brings the cost for other participating organisations down to just under £1,000.00.

The Director advised that subject to her outstanding concerns being dealt with satisfactorily, it would be worthwhile for Penlee House to participate in the House of Images Project and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Director should proceed, subject to the above.

(h) Additional Security Measures

Because of advances being made in technology, the Redcare element of the alarm system could no longer be guaranteed by Westcountry and this would invalidate the council's insurance.

The control unit, therefore, needed to be updated at a cost of £1,645.00 which would be taken from the committee's plant and fabric fund and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that a new control unit be purchased.

The Town Clerk also referred to the recent difficulties with youngsters gaining access to the roof of Penlee House and, the points of access had been treated with a liberal coating of Perma-wet paint which had proved to be a successful deterrent.

However, it was felt that security would be improved with the mounting of a security camera which would also cover the sensory garden and the copper water feature.

The cost of the camera including a new multiplex recorder would be £2,529.00 and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the equipment should be purchased.

(i) West Cornwall Arts Archive - Update

Short-listing had now taken place in respect of the appointment of a consultant whose remit would be to identify a building and key partners to house and run the archive on a self-sustaining basis.

Seven applications had been received and three individuals and one representative of a consultancy group would make presentations to a sub-committee of the trustees and it was

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

(j) 'Friends of Penlee House'

The agenda for the AGM held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and the minutes of the previous year's meeting, together with the agenda and minutes for the ordinary meeting held on the

26<sup>th</sup> June had been copied to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted. It was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that a letter of thanks should be sent to the 'Friends' with regard to their support in relation to the recent acquisition of a painting.

(k) 'Artefact' - Newsletter of the 'Friends of Penlee House'

The latest edition of 'Artefact' 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) Director's Attendance at the Celtic Congress in Brittany

The Director confirmed that final arrangements had now been made for her to attend the Celtic Congress in Brittany where she would be making a one hour presentation on the Newlyn School of Painters and it was

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

#### 10. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Park Improvements

(i) Pond Project

The pond project was now complete save for planting of the surrounding borders which would be carried out by the end of next week and it was

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

(ii) Playground

The Town Clerk advised that the playground was proving to be extremely popular and many positive comments had been received.

However, there had been some teething problems with some of the equipment which was being resolved by the contractor, including the breaking of a cross-beam on the junior swings as a result of vandalism and the Town Clerk was proposing that this beam, together with the beam on the cradle-swing, be replaced and it was

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

(iii) Sensory Garden

Work on the construction of the sensory garden was now complete and the water-feature would be installed at the beginning of next week.

BBC Television South West would be running an article on Newlyn Copper which would include the filming at Michael Johnson's workshop, and coverage of the installation of the water-feature and reference to the Newlyn Copper collection held in Penlee House, and it was

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

(iv) Resurfacing of Driveways

The Town Clerk was pleased to advise that this work had now been completed and it was

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

(v) Northern Boundary Railings

The work to install new railings was about 70 per cent complete and, again, it was hoped that this work would be concluded within the next two weeks and it was

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

(b) Rededication of Park

The Town Clerk advised that he hoped to link the rededication of the park to the Battle of Britain Commemoration being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. The park has been in public ownership for 60 years and it would seem appropriate to extend an invitation to all veteran associations to be involved.

The Town Clerk would provide further details in due course and it was

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

(c) Penzance Tennis Club - Request to Erect Floodlights on Courts 6 and 7

The Town Clerk referred to the meeting held earlier with representatives of the Tennis Club and, to the mock-up of a flood-light which had been erected by the gardeners at a height of 7 metres to give some indication of the likely impact of flood-lights on these courts.

Representatives of the club had indicated that the light columns could, in fact, be reduced to 6 metres and the Town Clerk would request that the gardeners move the mock-up to the main drive side of the courts, and reduce to 6 metres, and the matter would then be considered at the full Town Council Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and it was

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

(d) Community Service Orders

The Town Clerk advised that, despite initial concerns, some good work had been carried out by a number of people subject to Community Service Orders who were supervised on a

‘one to one’ basis and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council should continue its links with the Probation Service in this matter.

(e) Dog Control Orders

Correspondence had been received from the District Council concerning the ‘Cleaner Neighbourhood’ legislation which would enable District Council staff to issue spot fines to dog owners who breached the control order.

The Town Clerk has written to the District Council to request that Penlee Park be included as an open space to be covered by the legislation and it was

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

(f) Meeting with Conservation Officer - Conservatory

The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the District Council’s Conservation Officer, Steve Edwards, to discuss the possibility of a conservatory extension adjoining the existing Orangery.

The Town Clerk had taken photographs of the area which had been sent to Steve Edwards who had kindly offered to sketch out some possible ideas.

A number of members were not convinced that Penlee House should be further extended but would await the drawings to further consider the matter.

The Town Clerk advised that, in any event, the existing awning over the terrace had been serviced but would need replacing at some time in the near future at an estimated cost of £4,000.00 and it was

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

(g) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next matter to be discussed, it was

**RESOLVED:** to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(h) Maintenance Contract - Penlee House

See Confidential Appendix ‘B’.

(i) Resolution to Re-Admit the Press and Public

It was

**RESOLVED:** to re-admit the press and public to the meeting.

(j) Open Air Theatre Season

The Town Clerk advised that the Open Air Theatre season would start on the 29<sup>th</sup> July and run through to the 24<sup>th</sup> August and programmes were available from the Town Clerk's Office and it was

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

(k) New Car Park Ticket Machine

The Town Clerk advised that the preparatory work in respect of the installation of the new machine, which would be carried out in-house, had been delayed because of the commitment of staff time to the improvement projects in the park.

However, this work would proceed within the next few weeks and a new machine would be ordered, the cost being covered from the car park fund and it was

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

11. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the month of April 2006 and it was

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

8.40 pm

Chairman  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2006