

MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 18th September
2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Moreland (Chairman)

Councillors M.R. Cotton
J.H. Dixon
F. Granger
R.M. Lawrence
J. Ruhrmund
T.E. Williams

ALSO PRESENT

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

12. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors R. Clark, R.A. Mann, J. Parkin and H. Worth.

13. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations to be made.

14. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3RD JULY 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

15. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

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

The Director advised that visitor numbers for the calendar year to date stood at 28,125 against 27,041 to the end of September 2006 and at 22,392 as against 18,518 for the financial year.

The Director advised that Penlee House had benefited from the Gorsedd Ceremony and 810 people had attended that day which was an all time record for Penlee House.

The new exhibition had just commenced and early signs were good with the shop reaching over £1,000.00 on Monday 17th September and with shop income at £60,154 for the year to date against £59,686 to the end of September 2006. Total takings from all sources for the financial year stood at £87,950.00 as against £81,286 to the end of September 2006 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Director's verbal report be noted.

(b) Forthcoming Exhibitions

The next exhibition, following the 'Dod Procter', would be entitled 'Gifts Given' and has been scheduled as a 'thank you' to everyone who had donated works to the gallery over the past years and admission would be free to this exhibition, which runs over the Christmas period along with the traditional Cornwall Crafts selling exhibition.

The first exhibition of 2008, which commences on the 19th January, will be the 'Jack Pender Show' for which there are a large number of good quality works available 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) Recognition of Particular Donor of Works to Penlee House

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) 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Opening of the Refurbished/Extended Building

The Town Clerk advised that the 10th Anniversary of the refurbishment/extension of Penlee House falls on Thursday 15th November and it was agreed that the occasion should be marked in some way.

As members were aware, a booklet tracing the history of the house and of the Branwells had already been drafted, to be published at that time, and entry to the house would be free on the day and the house would be suitably decorated to mark the event.

It was proposed that a reception should be held in the evening with an invitation list drawn up to include members of the current Penlee House Committee and those serving on the Committee some 10 years ago.

Invitations would be sent to those who have made a major contribution to the running of Penlee House and to Sir Richard Carew-Pole who performed the original Opening Ceremony.

Music would also be provided and a press release prepared and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the proposed event should proceed.

(g) 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.

(h) External Decoration of 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) Security Upgrade

The Director referred members to an earlier quotation in respect of the wiring-in of the existing reception camera to the digital recording system instead of the VCR to which it was currently wired.

The price included the positioning of a new UV camera to cover various aspects of the exterior of the building and because of budgetary constraints, this work had been deferred until the New Year.

However, in the meantime, the VCR attached to the reception camera had come to the end of its natural life and rather than spend £350.00 on a short-term replacement, the Town Clerk had sanctioned the commissioning of the full security works as listed above, with such costs being covered from the Plant and Fabric Fund and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

The Director also referred to the present configuration of the wiring to the sensors and an upgrade to this system would cost in the excess of £2,000.00, and would provide for only a marginal improvement, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the current system be maintained for the time being.

(k) Meeting of the 'Friends of Penlee House' - 10th September 2007 and Minutes of the Meeting of 25th June 2007

Councillor Moreland advised that he had attended the above meetings and the minutes would be available to any member who wished to have sight of them.

Councillor Moreland had sounded out the 'Friends' with regard to a proposal for the placing of wooden sculptures (using, for example, tree trunks) which could be commissioned for the park similar to those which stand in the Westonbirt Arboretum.

The sculptures would be sturdy and accessible to the public and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the chairman seek further information in respect of the cost of commissioning such sculptures.

(l) 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.

(m) Staffing Matter

See Confidential Appendix "C".

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

It was

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

(o) Attendance at Conference - Glasgow

The Director sought consent to attend the Annual Museums Association Conference in Glasgow where she would be presented with her Fellowship Award and it was

RESOLVED: that the Director should attend the above conference with the council covering the associated cost.

(p) Museums Association Council

The Director informed members that she had been elected as the South West representative to the Museums Association Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(q) Newlyn Art Gallery - 'Lineage' Joint Project

The Director advised of a proposed joint project between Newlyn Art Gallery and Penlee House which was being organised in association with the Newlyn Society of Artists.

The exhibition would open on the 13th October 2007 and Newlyn Art Gallery would be taking, on loan, various works in their ownership which were currently held at Penlee House.

Five pieces of contemporary work by local artists which are inspired by existing works would be shown in spaces within Penlee House which would not impinge upon the current Dod Procter show. The works were as follows:-

Nic Strangelove inspired by: 'The Rain it Raineth Every Day' by Norman Garstin - contemporary photographs of the same area on Penzance Promenade.

Sarah Poland inspired by: the book 'King Arthur's Wood' by Elizabeth Forbes, a pre-Raphaelite-inspired, illustrated medieval story written for her son. The artist has created an editioned book of poetry and printmaking in 'the spirit' of Forbes' book.

Alessandra Ausenda inspired by: photographs of the Branwell family. Alessandra will display a fabric shroud incorporating printed photographs.

Gillian Cooper inspired by: female artists and their flower paintings, particularly by Dod Procter. Gillian will exhibit two prints of Cornish hedgerow flowers.

Peter Webster inspired by: the enamels of ballerinas by Laura Knight and Ella Naper. Peter has incorporated this imagery onto leaflets referencing club flyers, for distribution at local clubs and kebab shops, as well as Newlyn Art Gallery and Penlee House where the original enamels will be displayed.

The joint project will be beneficial to both galleries and will promote the concept that traditional art still has relevance today and that modern contemporary art can draw from it. The Director and Jonathan Holmes will be giving four talks to accompany the exhibitions - two in Penlee House and two in Newlyn Gallery and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

16. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Remedial Works to Sensory Garden

The Town Clerk informed members that, due to personal circumstances, the contractor appointed to carry out the remedial works on the Sensory Garden had been delayed and the work would not now commence until after the 15th November so that there was no disturbance in and around the 10th anniversary celebrations for Penlee House. In the meantime, some temporary cosmetic work had been done by staff in-house to improve the general look of the area.

The possibility of making changes to the position of the cider press would also be reviewed at the time of the remedial works and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) New Signage

Samples and costs for new signage were awaited and would be in the corporate colours of the park of green and gold.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the banners by the Morrab Road entrance needed renewing and it was suggested that vertical signs of the same style but constructed in wood would be a better alternative and it was

RESOLVED: to include this proposal in the new signage.

(c) Planning Meeting

The Town Clerk advised that a Planning Meeting had recently taken place between Peter Perry (Tree Consultant), Jane Haslam (Garden Design Consultant), Councillor Moreland as Chairman of the Penlee House Committee and the Town Clerk during which the ongoing planning and design of the park had been discussed.

Jane Haslam, who had contributed greatly to the design of the park, would now be standing down from her position as consultant but would still be on hand to provide practical advice as required.

The proposal was to provide more detail to the current plans for the park which would commence with the planting of new trees during the Autumn and Councillor Ruhrmund repeated her request that a davidia (handkerchief tree) be included in the planting scheme and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Appointment of Gardener

The Town Clerk advised that Diane Angwin had been recently appointed as Assistant Gardener and she had already brought many useful ideas to the park in terms of plant selection and their location within the park and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Open Air Theatre Season

The Town Clerk advised that a full report on the Open Air Theatre season would follow in due course but, in the meantime, he reported that the number of scheduled performances this year had been lower than in previous years due to children's performances having to be cancelled at a late date and with two of the four jazz performances being lost because of illness.

Performances by the 'Miracle Theatre' had been a sell-out on both nights and would have given a welcome boost to attendance figures and revenue and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Official 'UN Day of Peace and Global Ceasefire' - 21st September 2007

This annual event would again be taking place in the park on the above date and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

17. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st August 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of June, July and August 2007 and it was

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

8.35 pm

Chairman
6th November 2007