

MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room 3, St John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J Moreland (Chairman)
J Parkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R Clark
MR Cotton
JH Dixon
RM Lawrence
RA Mann
J Ruhmund

ALSO PRESENT

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

32. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors F Granger, TE Williams

33. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

34. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

35. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

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

The Director advised that visitor figures at the end of the calendar year 2007 stood at 36,411 which was only 500 below the highest year recorded. Visitor figures for the financial year to date stood at 32,231 which was almost 6,000 above the figure reached at the end of January 2007 giving a very good target forecast.

Shop takings were also up on this period last year, standing at £95,418 to date and income from all sources stood at £129,735 representing an increase of almost £15,000 over the same period in the last financial year and it was

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

(b) Forthcoming exhibitions

The current Jack Pender exhibition, accompanied by a book written by Frank Ruhmund, had attracted approximately 300 visitors on the preview evening at which the shop took £800 followed by a further £500 on the following Saturday.

The next exhibition would be James Clarke Hook & Painters of the Sea running from 15th March to 7th June accompanied by the book 'Where the Sea meets the Land: Artists on the Coast in Nineteenth-Century Britain' and would include two major Newlyn works – 'The Health of the Bride' by Stanhope Forbes and 'A Hopeless Dawn' by Frank Bramley. An exhibition of work by Edwin Harris would run concurrently with this exhibition and it was

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

(c) 'Friends of Penlee House' – Agenda for meeting on 28th January 2008 and minutes of meeting on 19th November 2007

The minutes of the last meeting of the Friends of Penlee House and agenda for the next meeting on 28th January had been circulated to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(d) British Association of Friends of Museums – 'A Sense of Place Conference' – October 2008

The Director advised members that Penlee House would act as the host venue for the National Conference of the British Association of Friends of Museums in October 2008 and it was hoped that the event would promote West Cornwall as whole, not just Penlee House. A range of excursions were being offered to conference delegates and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Acquisitions

The Director reported that, unfortunately, efforts to raise funding for the purchase of 'On the Beach' by Ernest Procter, as reported at the last meeting, had not been successful. However, over 80 pieces of studio pottery from West Cornwall had been donated to Penlee House from a private donor and, as well as pieces from the Troika pottery, the collection included work from other studios that are not currently represented in the gallery and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Out of County Talks by Director

The Director advised members that she had been invited to Nottingham next week to give a talk on 'women artists in West Cornwall' and to the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea the following week to give a talk on the Newlyn School in general. She would be giving a similar talk to the Friends of Bristol Gallery in March and all expenses would be paid by the respective organisations and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) Donation to 'Friends'

An anonymous donation of £1,000 to the 'Friends of Penlee House' had been received from a lady who had been delighted and impressed on her first visit to Penlee House on the day of the 10th anniversary and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

36. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Security of Park – fees increase

Members were informed that the cost of patrolling, locking and unlocking the park would increase to £7.50 from £5.00 per patrol with effect from 1st February 2008 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

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

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

(c) Proposed New 'Eco' Education Building

See Confidential Appendix 'A'.

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

It was

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

(e) Penlee Park – proposed 'Sculpture Park'

Since the commissioning and building of the proposed 'eco' education building would take up a lot of time and effort, the Director would prefer to defer the plans for a 'sculpture park' until 2009. However, the Chairman hoped that it might be possible to incorporate some sculpting activities in the Newlyn Art Week event that takes place in the marquee in the park in August and possibly some sculptures and benches around the play area. It was also suggested that artists could be asked to work and take up 'residence' in the park for a trial period and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Chairman should investigate the financial implications of this proposal with the Town Clerk and also the possibility of incorporating it in the August event and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Councillor Dixon proposed that some flags could be made for the park in advance of the BAFM Conference in October and it was further

RECOMMENDED: that this proposal be accepted.

(f) Update re renovation of Sensory Garden

The Chairman had drawn up a revised plan for the renovation of the Sensory Garden which was presented to those members present. The existing paving would remain and the stonework would be re-configured and would be extended to incorporate the Concarneau border. The work would commence toward the latter end of February.

The Chairman was thanked for all his time and efforts and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) Orangery Café

The Chairman advised members that the franchisee of the Orangery Café had requested extra outside seating that could be placed on the lower terrace. The area had been measured and it was proposed to install chunky wooden tables and benches, using wood donated from trees felled at Tregenna Castle. A local carpenter had been approached with regard to carrying out the work which he was prepared to do on a labour only basis at a reduced cost. The ground would need to be paved to match the existing terrace for health and hygiene reasons and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

37. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

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

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of October, November and December 2007 and it was

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

Owing to the recent increase in energy prices, it was suggested that an energy audit of Penlee House should be conducted and the Director agreed to discuss this with the maintenance company and to look at ways of reducing energy usage, such as changing all light bulbs to energy efficient ones and installing solar panels in the roof and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

8:14pm

Chairman
26th February 2008