

MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room 3, St John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 26th February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J Parkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors MR Cotton
JH Dixon
F Granger
RM Lawrence (left the meeting at 8:10pm)
J Ruhrmund

ALSO PRESENT

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

38. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors R Clark, RA Mann, J Moreland.

39. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

40. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 2008**

Having been circulated, it was

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

41. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

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

The Director reported that the current Jack Pender exhibition was going very well and a lot of positive feedback had been received and with visitor numbers standing at 2310 at the end of January (against 1518 at the end of January 2007), it was one of the highest January visitor numbers on record.

Shop takings to date for the financial year stood at £102,997 and total income had reached £139,617 which represented an increase of almost £20,000 over the same period in the previous financial year.

It was

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

(b) Forthcoming exhibitions

The next exhibition would be 'James Clarke Hook & Painters of the Sea' running from 15th March to 7th June and a smaller, one room exhibition 'Focus on Edwin Harris' would run concurrently. The 'Painters of the Sea' exhibition would include some very important Newlyn works including 'Health of The Bride' by Stanhope Forbes, not previously shown at Penlee House and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Acquisitions

The Director informed members that there were currently no plans for any major acquisitions but the 'Friends' had recently paid for two design books and two postcards that had been bought at auction and which depicted the suffragette march from Lands End to London. Also, a large collection of studio pottery representing every pottery in West Cornwall during the 20th century had been donated to the museum and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Friends of Penlee House

The minutes of the last meeting of the Friends of Penlee House were not yet available but it was reported that the organisation of the Annual Conference of the British Association of Friends of Museums was well underway and the latest edition of the newsletter 'Artefact' would be mailed out next week and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Manifesto for Museums in the South West

The Director distributed to those present a 'Manifesto for Museums in the South West' prepared by the South Western Federation of Museums & Art Galleries whose aim is to support and represent all the museums and galleries in the south west, regardless of size. The Federation felt that the Museums Libraries and Archives Council was not an effective representative for the museums and that there was a general lack of support on a national level with financial support being provided to the larger museums but not filtering down to the smaller ones. The manifesto sets out the vision and goals of the Federation and the full version of the document was available to view online with comments being encouraged and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council should write to the MLA expressing concerns over the lack of support and representation provided and requesting that all museums and galleries should be treated equally, regardless of size and that sufficient support and funding be provided.

(f) Joint Ticketing

A joint ticketing scheme involving Tate St Ives, the Barbara Hepworth Museum, Leach Pottery, Penlee House, Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange had been set up and the

launch would take place on 23rd May at the start of the half-term week. Tickets would cost £12 per person (£7 for concessions) and would be sold at all the venues allowing the ticket-holder repeat admission to any of the venues within a one week timeframe. £2 of the £12 tickets and £1.50 of the £7 tickets would go to Penlee House, regardless of whether or not the ticket-holder visited the museum and gallery and it was seen that Penlee House would therefore benefit from the large number of visitors who visit Tate St Ives during the summer months. Concessionary rates would apply during re-hangs. An information leaflet providing details of each of the venues would be provided with the ticket and the Director informed members that this year's summer exhibition would be a joint venture with Tate St Ives – 'Dawn of a Colony' sub-titled 'Lyrical Light' in Penlee House and 'Picturing the West' in the Tate.

It was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (g) Correspondence from West Cornwall Heritage Sector Volunteer Group – 'Help Keep Cornwall's Heritage Alive'

Correspondence received providing details of the aim of West Cornwall's Volunteering Week that ran from 16th to 22nd February had been distributed prior to the meeting and the Director reported that the volunteer stand in Penlee House had attracted a lot of volunteers and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

42. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

- (a) Proposed New 'Eco' Education Building

The Town Clerk and the Director had put together an advertisement for the co-ordinator role that was being advertised with a closing date of Friday 14th March and, as agreed at a previous meeting, Councillors Moreland and Ruhrmund would assist with the shortlisting and interviewing process. The best site for the building in the park was still under discussion and it was hoped that it could be integrated more into the main body of the park than the current building and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (b) Penlee Park – proposed 'Sculpture Park'

Due to the amount of organising and work involved with the eco education building, it had been decided to put this project on hold for the time being. However, it was hoped that some sculptures could still be placed in the area at the back of the playground and the Town Clerk circulated some photographs providing samples of the type of sculpture that could be appropriate and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Update re renovation of Sensory Garden

All the plants had now been removed from the borders of the Sensory Garden in preparation for the planned renovations and had been distributed in the borders surrounding the museum and new plants would be sourced for the Sensory Garden once the work was complete. A firm date for commencement of the work had not yet been set and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Orangery Café – Extension to Outside Seating Area

Councillor Moreland had provided a draft plan of the new seating area with low level heavy duty benches and tables constructed out the wood from felled trees being donated by Tregenna Castle and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Review of Car Park Charges

Research into various scenarios for altering the current pricing scheme for the Penlee House car park was being undertaken by the Town Clerk's office and more information would be forthcoming at the next full Council meeting. However, the Town Clerk pointed out that a proposal to split the car park into long stay and short stay areas may prove difficult to enforce and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

43. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its financial position to the 31st January 2008 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the month of January 2008 and it was

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

8:20pm

Chairman
20th May 2008