

**MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councillors J F Moreland (Chairman)  
M Lovegrove (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M R Cotton  
M Freeman  
R M Lawrence  
R A Mann  
J Ruhmund

**ALSO PRESENT**

Alison Bevan (Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum)

**7. APOLOGIES**

Councillors J H Dixon, D Nebesnuick, J Parkin, K L W Perry, C A C White and T E Williams.

**8. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R M Lawrence declared a personal interest in Minute 11(a) Memorial Chapel Repairs, as a member of the Royal British Legion who are regular users of the Memorial Garden and Chapel.

Councillor R A Mann declared a prejudicial interest in confidential Minute 11(f) Machinery Maintenance as a personal friend of the person mentioned within the report.

The Town Clerk also declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 11(f) for the same reasons.

**9. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2009**

Having been circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** - that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

10. REPORT OF DIRECTOR

(a) Exhibition, income and visitor number report

The Director advised that, given the current global financial climate, although visitor numbers were up the total takings were slightly down on previous years.

(b) Forthcoming exhibitions

This Christmas an exhibition would take place which was centred around art work submitted by schools and individuals that were inspired by the Gallery and its contents. James Green of the Exchange Gallery would assist the Director in judging the entries which would be exhibited alongside the work that inspired it.

(c) Former Playgroup Building – update

The Gallery Director had sought some advice from visitors from the South West Lottery Office who had indicated that the potential to gain funding from the 'Parks for People' bid for the playgroup building had a low chance of success given that the purpose of the fund was to approve such things as facilities and landscaping and buildings in parks were treated as ancillary. Potential sources of funding could, therefore, come from the 'Your Heritage' fund or the Clare Duffield Trust. However, the Clare Duffield Trust required that any building measured a minimum of 84 square metres and currently the playgroup building stood at only 73 square metres but this could be overcome with the inclusion of a structure such as a conservatory within the plans.

Following a detailed discussion, with inclusion by the Chairman and Town Clerk, it was

**RECOMMENDED** – that the Town Clerk would pursue immediate remedial works which would include such things as window repair and painting from within Town Council resources;

The Chairman, Gallery Director, Town Clerk and representative of Cornwall Council would meet and progress funding bids for the 'Your Heritage' fund and the Clare Duffield Trust.

(d) Essential Maintenance Works

The Gallery Director advised that the "mosquito" had now been installed. This device emitted a high-pitched noise which was found to be annoying by 16 to 24 year olds and although certain installations elsewhere in the country had proved controversial, this one was set at a position where it would only be activated by movement where public access was prohibited.

(e) Object Project and Social History Display

The Gallery Director circulated a flyer regarding the “Object Project” event to be held on 22 August which was an opportunity for members of the public to visit The Centre, Chywoone Hill, Newlyn to have their artwork and interesting objects assessed by experts from Penlee House, the Royal Cornwall Museum and the University of Exeter to gain information on its heritage, history and provenance.

The Gallery Director had also held two consultation evenings with Old Cornwall Societies regarding the Social History display where the plans were put on show and very positive comments were received which indicated that, following the re-display, more people would be interested in visiting the Social History Gallery.

(f) Art Week

This year, “Art in the Park” will run from 3 to 7 August and the marquee for that event had been provisionally booked. However, use of the former Penlee Playgroup building would lessen the cost of this provision considerably and the Gallery Director was still in negotiation on this matter.

(g) Friends of Penlee House – bring and buy sale

During Art Week the Friends of Penlee House had indicated that they would wish to hold a bring and buy sale to make the most of the marquee.

(h) Magic Lantern Slides

The Gallery Director advised that there was a collection of magic lantern slides which would be at auction next week and which depicted many rare scenes of Penzance and surrounding area and, although she did not wish to bid high on all of the lots, she was looking at making bids in excess of the reserve price to secure them for the Gallery.

**11. REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Memorial Chapel Repairs – update

The Robert Jones Practice of Carbis Bay had been approached by the Town Clerk to draw up a specification for the works to the Memorial Chapel and also to assist the Town Council in the application to the War Memorials Trust for funding to carry out these works. The Robert Jones Practice had been involved in producing several reports on the condition of the building previously and the Town Clerk indicated that he took comfort from the approach taken by Mr. Jones that repair rather than rebuilding was the approach to be taken.

(b) New Gate for Memorial Garden

Work on the new gate for the Memorial Garden was nearly complete with two perforated iron panels allowing visitors to the garden to look through to the garden. The Town Clerk advised that there were some works to be done to the door frame and path to allow access but this was of a minor nature and the gate should be in place in the very near future.

(c) Re-lining of Penlee House Car Park

Re-lining of the top half of Penlee House Car Park had taken place in the previous week with slight amendments to bays and a 'no waiting' area installed. The Town Clerk advised that a report would be made to the Town Council in September regarding a request for a one-way system within the car park.

(d) Open Air Theatre Season

The Gallery Director advised that following some comments regarding the low key nature of advertising for the events in the Open Air Theatre, she was currently talking to the 'Inside Cornwall' publication to broaden the public awareness of these events and welcomed suggestions regarding future events.

(e) Gardeners' Bonus Scheme – Monthly

Members considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk regarding the gardeners' Bonus Scheme and further to discussion it was

**RESOLVED** – that the annual Bonus Scheme previously agreed by the Town Council for the gardeners be amended to allow the Bonus Scheme to be paid on a monthly basis.

(f) Machinery Maintenance

Councillor Mann withdrew from the meeting at this point.

The Town Clerk advised members that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the report but would not take part in the debate.

The Chairman advised that the Town Council currently owned a variety of equipment which required repair and maintenance. The Town Council had previously employed an agricultural engineer to undertake these duties but he had since retired and the report sought a replacement.

Further to consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** – that the Town Clerk approach the agricultural engineer mentioned in the report to provide detailed costings for his services, with a

view to employing him to repair and maintain the Council's garden machinery.

Meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

Chairman  
15 September 2009