

MINUTES OF THE PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J F Moreland (Chairman)
M Freeman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M R Cotton
R M Lawrence
K L W Perry
J Ruhmund

ALSO PRESENT

Alison Bevan (Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum)

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from

Councillors M Lovegrove, R A Mann, D Nebesnuick, J Parkin, C A C White, T E Williams.

32. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

33. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2009

Having been circulated, it was

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

34. REPORT OF DIRECTOR

(a) Exhibition, income and visitor number report

The Director reported that total visitors for the calendar year 2009 had reached 39,424 which was the first year that the figure had gone above 39,000 and this represented a significant increase over preceding years. However, the financial figures were not so positive and visitor numbers and shop takings had been severely affected in January by the snow and an exhibition re-hang. Shop takings for the financial year to date stood at £83,518.86 as opposed to £94,012.67 at the end of January 2009, representing a substantial drop. Total takings for the financial year to date stood at £115,543.24 against £129,014.03 at the end of January 2009. However, it should be noted that the year 2008/09 had been a particularly good year and the target of £115,000 for the current year had already been surpassed.

(b) Forthcoming exhibitions

The current exhibition – West Cornwall Studio Pottery 1920-1980 - would run from 16 January to 13 March and this would be followed by ‘A Marriage of the Arts: The Garniers and their circle’, encompassing the work of Geoffrey and Jill Garnier and the circle of artists with whom they were involved.

A draft of the exhibition programme for the period 2010 to 2011 had already been prepared as follows:

- A Cornish Childhood – 29 May to 4 September 2010. (This summer exhibition would start earlier in the year than usual for the benefit of local schools that would be able to visit the exhibition before the summer break)
- St Ives Between The Wars – 11 September to 20 November 2010
- Picture Post – 27 November 2010 to 15 January 2011
- West Cornwall Through The Lens – from 22 January 2011

(c) Acquisitions

It was reported that, unfortunately, the bid to purchase at auction a portrait of Alfred Munnings by Harold Knight had failed.

(d) CATA – Cornwall Association of Tourist Attractions

The Director requested the views of the committee on the possibility of joining the Cornwall Association of Tourist Attractions. The Association produced an advertising brochure twice a year (Summer and Winter) that was widely distributed throughout Cornwall and further afield via Visit Britain and becoming a member of the Association would place Penlee House alongside other key players in the tourist industry and significantly raise the profile of the gallery and museum. The Director pointed out that a greater number of visitors during the summer months may be difficult to cope with but she proposed advertising in the Winter brochure only in order to attract more visitors during the colder months. However, it was felt that the one-off membership fee of £6,000 and the advertising costs of £4,000 were prohibitive and it was

RESOLVED – that the Committee supported the idea in principle but the costs were too high and if the Director could negotiate a better deal (possibly through taking up a joint membership with another organisation and therefore sharing the cost) the position could be reviewed at a later date. The advertising budget would be raised by a further £2,500 to accommodate this potential increase.

(e) Resolution to exclude the press and public

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

RESOLVED – to exclude the press and public.

(f) Staffing matters (see confidential Appendix 'A')

(g) Resolution to re-admit the press and public

Following discussion of the previous item, it was

RESOLVED – to re-admit the press and public.

35. BUDGET REVISION 2009/2010 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2010/2011 (see Appendix 'B')

The committee considered revised estimates for the current year and the proposed budget figures in respect of the financial year 2010/2011 and it was

RESOLVED – that the expenditure saved through the resignation of a member of staff in August would be used to supplement the Machinery Fund and that any excess income from Penlee House would go towards the Council Run Exhibition Fund.

It was further

RECOMMENDED - that the revised figures in respect of the current year and the proposed budget for 2010/2011 be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman
2 March 2010