

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 30th FEBRUARY 2022** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE,43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillor L Sheffield (Chairman) Presiding

Councillors	P Bullivant	M Hocking
	C Bunday (Dep Mayor)	R Jenks
	D Corney-Walker	C Parker
	C Davieson	M Pilkington
	A Hall	M Ryan
	R Hayes	

Officers in attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Dr Charlotte Dixon – Museum Curator

399. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Crout, R Hall, D Howe, C Jenks, A Jones (Vice Chair), M Joyce (Mayor) and Phil Rowe, Town Clerk.

400. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 9th February 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

401. **INTERESTS**

None.

402. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

403. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 2nd MARCH 2022

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2022 be hereby, approved and adopted.

404. MUSEUM REPORT

The Chairman referred to the Museum report, previously circulated and invited the Curator Dr Charlotte Dixon to update Members on key points raised within the report:

- Following the final submission of reports to the National Lottery Heritage Fund the 'Newton's Place project' is complete and the remaining funding has now been received.
- Museum reopened on the 18th January 2022. Since then, the Museum has welcomed 2,196 visitors (up until 21st March).
- The team have been busy facilitating a wide range of visits and events, with an increasing demand for community engagement through outreach visits, workshops, school visits and group visits
- Exhibitions and displays continue to be changed.
- The object of the month case continues to be a success with different groups choosing an object to be displayed. The March object (floral embroidered silk cigarette cards) was chosen by a Brownies group and the next object has been chosen by a Scouts group who recently visited.
- The 'Your Space' cabinet in the community area of the Museum currently has a display of teddy bears, all from the collection of local craftswoman and artist. This display changes regularly and from April the display will feature personal memory boxes made by local Syrian refugee families exploring memories and thoughts about home. This will connect with the April Museum: Make and Create family workshop.
- Community Engagement Officer Kate Green has been working with Newton Abbot Art Group to display the group's 'Field of Flowers' artwork that was produced by members during lockdown. This is now on display on the stairs at Newton's Place.
- A multi-award-winning artist whose work is shown around the globe has teamed up with Newton Abbot Museum and residents to produce a series of drawings inspired by life in the town, past and present.
- Torquay Pottery Collectors Society (TPCS) will showcase an array of royal commemoratives from the Torquay and South Devon potteries. It is in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year.
- "Museum: Make and Create workshops" are sessions designed to encourage families to work together and are led by Kate Green. The free sessions take place on the first Saturday of every month.
- Singer-songwriter Nicky Swann performed in the Museum on Saturday March 19th, in an evening billed as Songs from a Market Town. The tracks, all from her 2012 album How Does Your Land Lie? were inspired by the museum's collection and demonstrates Nicky's connections to her hometown.
- The Museum has partnered with Brickideas to put on a series of workshops using Lego focusing on different subjects for home education groups. The first of these sessions saw families coming from as far as Looe in Cornwall to attend. The next session is scheduled for 5 April.

- Community Outreach - two 'pop-up' museum visits to the Bradley Court and Mapleton Close community rooms. This was part of a new initiative by Teign Housing who want to encourage greater use of their community rooms.
- The Museum is collaborating with Newton Abbot College to deliver lunchtime History Club sessions.
- The Bright Lights Community Writing Group meets weekly at Newton's Place on a Saturday between 11am and 12:30pm. These are free drop-in sessions where everyone is welcome and cover a variety of different areas such as the writing of stories, plays and poetry.
- Accessibility - there are now four braille audio guide handsets available at the Welcome Desk to borrow for the duration of a visit.
- The Museum has 52 volunteers. This includes 21 regular front of house volunteers, 12 behind the scenes volunteers and 6 who work on research.
- Our Highstreet, partnering with Learn Devon to offer a free family learning course.
- In November two work experience students through the Prince's Trust course at Young Devon joined the Museum for a week. In April a student from Exeter University will be joining for 2 weeks and there are two students from Newton Abbot College joining the Museum for a week's work experience in June.
- In March the Museum ran an Alzheimer's Society initiative Dementia Friends training session for staff and volunteers. Twenty-eight staff and volunteers became Dementia Friends
- Accreditation, the team have been busy putting together documents and policies for the accreditation returns which are to be submitted by the 31st March.
- Staff changes, in March Katie Petley-Jones' job title changed from Museum Assistant to Curatorial Assistant.
- In October the Museum welcomed Darren Ashford as a Trainee Museum Assistant on the government Kickstart scheme. This placement was for 6 months and is due to finish mid- April. The Museum are delighted to have had Darren on the team and he will be missed when the placement finishes.

Councillors asked Dr Dixon questions relating to the Museum and expressed their gratitude to her for producing such a detailed report. Members were impressed with the work of the Museum team, led by Dr Dixon, and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. The Chairman added that the Museum was a great example of community engagement and thanked Dr Dixon and her team for their experience and enthusiasm leading the town into the future.

RESOLVED that the Museum Report be hereby, noted.

405. **HIGHWAYS – DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (A382 IMPROVEMENTS, NEWTON ABBOT) (Phase 4) SIDE ROADS ORDER2022 (“the Order”)**

A statutory notice relating to the order referred to above had been received from Devon County Council (DCC) requesting the Town Council comments on the Order.

Members discussed the proposal and agreed that in principle they had no objection, but they were unable to comment as the map was inaccurate.

Cllr Bullivant advised members the map contained in the information provided by DCC, which was circulated prior to the meeting, was inaccurate. He informed members that he had contacted DCC and requested an accurate map, he had not received the information. Members requested Cllr Bullivant provides an update once he has received one.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Town Clerk requests DCC provide an accurate map to enable the Town Council to make a detailed and accurate response.

406. **FLAGPOLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Chairman referred to the Flagpole report, circulated prior to the meeting which outlined plans to replace numerous flagpole brackets throughout the town. It was noted that the flagpole infrastructure was originally installed in 2000 and was no longer fit for purpose. The Chairman invited the Town Development Manager to provide an update on the project.

The Town Development Manager advised that replacing existing flagpole brackets did not require planning permission. Letters had been sent to all the affected property owners to seek permission; the consensus so far is positive.

Members had received additional information, circulated prior to the meeting, relating to the cost of the poles and flags. It was noted the total cost, including hire of a mobile elevated platform would be approximately £7,500 to £8,000.

Members agreed the project would provide a long-term benefit to the town.

Accordingly, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby:

1. Proceeds with the quote from WGS Lighting, to include the removal/repair of existing infrastructure, installation, and stress testing of 25 flagpole brackets.
2. Proceeds with the quote received from Lamps, Tubes, and Illuminations for the purchase of 25 flagpoles and associated flags.

Cllr Bullivant requested Officers ensure best value is obtained.

Members expressed their thanks to the Events Co-ordinator and the Town Development Manager for providing a comprehensive report within a short timescale.

407. **ACCOUNTS/INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

- a) The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee, for the period 1st April – 28th February 2022.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1st April – 28th February 2022 for the Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved.

- b) The Committee received and noted an overview of income and expenditure for Newton In Bloom, for the period 1st April – 28th February 2022.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1st April – 31st December 2021 for Newton In Bloom be hereby approved.

- c) The Committee received and noted an overview of income and expenditure for the Museum, for the period 1st April to 28th February 2022.

The RFO reminded members it had been previously agreed that any balance remaining for the Museum will be carried forward into the 2022/23 financial year.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1st April – 28th February 2022 for the Museum be hereby approved.

408. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

409. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 15th June 2022.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

Chairman.....Date.....