



Minutes of a meeting of the Museum Committee held on 15 March 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East St, Wareham at 7.00pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillor B Dean (Chairman), Councillor D Cleaton (Vice Chairman), J Hall (Manager), H Scharnhorst (Curator), Gill Hennell.

Also Present: J Hale (Webmaster)

Officers Present: G Pettifer, Deputy Town Clerk

641. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from N Dominy, B Buxton, D Kingman, V de Wit, and Councillor M Russell (Mayor).

642. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

643. Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

644. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 9 November 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

645. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022

Min No. 425 – Mrs Scharnhorst reported that a dehumidifier had been purchased and installed.

646. Reports by Committee members

The Committee noted the reports from the Curator, Manager and Webmaster.

It was noted two school trips to the Museum had been organised, and a visit from a group of Christchurch U3A confirmed. The museum's volunteers were busy preparing the exhibits and displays for the new season. The Committee thanked the volunteers for their support.

647. Museum Re-opening

The Manager provided an update regarding the museum re-opening, which was scheduled for Saturday 8 April at 10.00am. The Mayor, Cllr M Russell, had been invited to cut a ribbon and the Corn Exchange had been booked for refreshments. Finer details were to be agreed.

The Chairman requested that any tea and coffee served should be Fair Trade.

648. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

The Chairman asked for an update regarding the Father Christmas event. The Curator and Manager reported that 300 children had visited the grotto. The new queuing system had worked well, and the walk through the Corn Exchange into a longer trail through the museum meant that more people were able to shelter from the bad weather. The Father Christmas Committee had promised a donation of at least £100 to the museum, which was expected to be paid imminently.

The Manager informed the committee that members of the Museum’s Committee of Governance (COG) would like to investigate the possibility of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with the support of Wareham Town Council. There was also a desire to explore working with the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, who act as an umbrella charity for various local charities, including Friends of Wareham Hospital, and Purbeck MS.

It was **RESOLVED** the Manager explore the process and implications of becoming a CIO and report back with further information.

649. Date of the next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday 21 June at 7.00pm.**

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

