

HASTINGS AND ST LEONARDS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 4th December 2022

Present: 26 members

Apologies for absence:

Chris Shoreman, Michael Morley, Jim Breeds, Carol Wardroper, William Ackroyd, Evelyn Murray, Cynthia and John Wright, Damian Etheraads, Dee Daly, Linda and John Westacott, Poppy MacLachlan, Marion Purdey and Erica Barrett

2. Minutes of 2021 AGM:

Agreed as correct (proposed by Richard Collison; seconded by Andre Palfrey-Martin)

3. Matters arising:

None

4. Annual Reports and Accounts:

a) Chair-as written report. The Banquette Fundraising campaign has so far raised £1800 in addition to the HMAG crowdfunding appeal, also around £1800. There was a further appeal to Museum Association members to give generously.

Thanks were given to Eleanor Lanyon, who had worked closely with the Association Committee and who has now moved to a new role, and to Damian Etheraads, who is also moving on in his career later in December. Damian especially has brought new ideas and funding to the museum and the wider Hastings community. There is currently a moratorium on staff vacancies at Hastings Borough Council so we are unsure if either of these essential and valuable posts will be advertised anytime soon. Appreciation of two of the hard working museum volunteers, Ghislaine and Eric, who have recently left, was also noted.

An update on the position of the Went Tree Trust was requested. Richard said that he had been in touch with Marion Purdey and Catherine Harvey, who are WTT trustees, but no further updates were available at present.

b) Treasurer-as written report. It was pointed out that, in the independent examiners report, the accounting period was stated as 5 months when this should in fact be 12 months.

The Association Committee agreed to offer to spend up to £2000 on items required by the museum. A list of items has been drawn up by Damian and the museum staff which they need help to purchase.

c) Membership Secretary: There are currently 100 life members and 37 annual members, some of which comprise two members at one address. Richard had been advised that 4 life members were known to be deceased. There are a number of life members for whom we have no contact details.

d) Secretary and Events Report- as written report. Susannah outlined some of the ideas for future events and outings, which were greeted with interest. A number of members signed up for the visit to Bexhill Museum on 29th January, 2023 and registered their interest in others. Susannah explained that there were currently only two members on the Events sub-

committee and it would be difficult to arrange and run events with so few people. Ken Palen volunteered to join the sub-committee and was warmly welcomed. Anne Green also volunteered to help specifically with the visit to Rye Harbour in Spring 2023.

5. Amendment to the constitution:

2b to read: "Nominate from among its members, in accordance with the Deed of Transfer of the Museum to the Corporation dated 1st January 1905 (subsequently amended) the number of representatives on the Borough Committee, currently 2 fifths, to serve on the Museums Committee of Hastings Borough Council" Agreed by show of hands (24 for; 2 against)

Richard explained the background for the need for the amendment to members present and there was some discussion before the vote was taken.

6. Motion from Steve Peak:

It was agreed that the Chair should write to Kevin Boorman and Cllr Andy Batsford, the Chair of the Hastings Borough Museum Committee, requesting that the importance of local history should be included in the job description for the replacement of Damian Etheraads. Agreed unanimously.

7. Election of President:

Brion Purdey was elected for another year

8. Election of Vice-President:

The Vice-President is Cllr Andy Batsford, Chair of the HBC Museum Committee

9. Election of Officers:

- a) Chair-Richard Street;
- b) Treasurer-Dee Daly;
- c) Secretary-Susannah Farley-Green;
- d) Events-Susannah Farley-Green, Dee Daly and Ken Palen;
- e) Membership-Richard Street;
- f) Auditor-HVA

10. Election of Executive Committee:

Richard Street, Dee Daly, Susannah Farley-Green, Hilda Kean, Steve Peak, Bill Montgomery, Andre Palfrey-Martin, Ken Palen

11. Election of Representatives to the HBC Museum Committee:

Richard Street, Steve Peak, Andre Palfrey-Martin, Susannah Farley-Green and Hilda Kean

12. Proposed events programme:

As outlined in the Secretary and Events Report

13. Museum Report including proposed purchases:

As Damian Etheraads written report. Damian was unable to attend the AGM in person and Oli Rogers, Senior Visitor Services Officer attended in his place. A list of purchases which the Association is intending to buy on behalf of HMAG, currently amounting to £645.98, most of which is for the storage and preservation of collections. The Association has offered funding

of up to a total of £2000 for specific items and further details are awaited.

It has been suggested that a card reader might be purchased for donations to the Museum. Bob Park pointed out that it would be advisable to assess the cost of the card reader against the likely amount of donations before going ahead.

It was agreed to delegate to the Committee the spending of the remainder of the £2,000.

14. Any other business:

Bruce Dowling suggested that we need younger people to join the Association and to explore ways in which to engage them through various social media platforms. The majority of our membership is made up of Life members and we must increase our membership figures to ensure the Association continues. Putting membership forms on social media sites such as Facebook might encourage interest. Nigel Sinden added that more people 'liking' both the HMAG and Association Facebook pages would be helpful. He suggested that we might contact young people from the Hastings Youth Council to use their own social media platform to widen the profile of the Hastings Museum Association.

Following a break, Andre Palfrey-Martin and Bill Montgomery gave an interesting and entertaining talk about their work in the Local Studies Archive and Room