

MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010

Present: Cllr W B Garvie – Chairman
Cllrs: F Partridge, H Partridge
Miss S Meads - Museum Development Officer (MDO)
Miss P Wright – Castle Manager (CM)
Mrs A Longley – Volunteer Coordinator (VC)
In attendance: Cllr L Emo, L Moores
Mrs C Kett – Town Clerk

HC/08/10 **To receive & accept apologies for absence**

Cllr P La Broy, Mr C Jewell, Bude Canal & Harbour Society (BCHS)
Cllr N Tucker (non-committee member)

HC/09/10 **To receive Members Declarations of Interest**

None

HC/10/10 **Maximum 15 minutes for electors present to put questions or make observations regarding the Heritage & Culture Committee**

None were present

HC/11/10 **Minutes:**

- (i) **To consider and approve the minutes of the H&C Committee meeting held on 14 January 2010**
Resolved: That the minutes are a true and accurate record and that they be signed by the Chairman
- (ii) **Report by Town Clerk on matters arising from the minutes**
None

HC/12/10 **The Castle Heritage Centre & Gallery:**

- (i) **Castle Manager, Outreach & Marketing Officer: report**
This is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The CM gave a detailed explanation of the content of the report
- (ii) **Archive Volunteer Co-ordinator: report**
 - various rock specimens have been identified
 - two volunteers have left as they had relocated to another part of the country
 - training being attended by volunteers
 - donations made to the Centre by Madeleine Carter
 - South West Maritime History Society are holding one of their annual meetings in Bude this year and will be visiting the Heritage Centre

HC/13/10 **Helebridge Barge Workshop: update**

The MDO reported that a meeting had taken place with representatives from Bude Canal Trust who are planning to make an application to HLF for funding which may (in HLF's opinion) impact upon any grant application made by BSTC.

The Town Clerk reported that BCHS would be opening the Barge Workshop on Sunday afternoons from 25 July 2010 to 26 September 2010

HC/14/10 **Stamford Hill Battlefield site: update by Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk reported that she was awaiting some suggested dates from Cornwall Council Tree Officer and when she had a mutually convenient date she would let all members know

HC/15/10 **Museum Development Officer: report**

The MDO reported that she was assisting with the preparations for the Heritage Day and had been overseeing the re-organisation of the archive store

Enhancement of the beach display; a meeting was held at the beginning of February with the MDO and Oh Design to incorporate the feedback from The Castle Manager's meeting with a local primary school Headteacher. Work on one display and enhancements to another is now underway.

Cornuboniscus Budensis (*300 million year-old fossil fish, globally - unique to Bude*)

A display space has been identified for this specimen. The MDO is in the process of completing the formal loan procedures and investigating a suitable display cabinet which will meet the National History Museum, London's conservation standards.

- Gallery

The 2010 Gallery programme is attached. Enquiries are already being received for 2011.

Ross Hoddinott will be facilitating two photographic workshops on 19th and 20th June.

The Budehaven exhibition "Budehaven Bodies" went very well. Comments from the Visitors' Book – for circulation. The school have booked again for January 2011.

Stratton Commemoration Weekend, 15-16 May

Planning is well under way for this annual event. The Sealed Knot will be able to set-up a Living History Camp on the school playing field this year. The weekend before, some members of the Sealed Knot will be at The Castle and around the town promoting the event.

The comments made last year have been taken on board and if councillors wish to keep the cost of the event down (specifically staff costs) then a number of volunteers will be required from amongst the councillors to work over the weekend. A detailed list will be available soon for those interested to be able to put their names against the various tasks.

The Bude-Stratton Heritage Day, 8th August

The organising committee are on schedule with the arrangements for this 'new look' heritage event. More details will be available at the next Heritage and Cultural Meeting.

- Outreach

The Castle was used by North Cornwall Activity Network – 17th & 18th February as the venue for two of its author workshops – part of the first North Cornwall's Children's Literary Festival. Both workshops were successful being booked to capacity.

Herbalist, Linda Moran, will be running 2 short workshops – Monday 5th April in the gallery and being Easter the subject is – chocolate making.

Linda will be facilitating another three or four workshops over the coming year, including an 'appearance' at Stratton as a 'Wise Woman' and she will be doing two herb / beach trails on Heritage Day.

- Other activities

Soul Survivors, [SS] the local paranormal group cancelled their January ghost watch and have re-booked for 17th April.

Malcolm Warren, the Vice-President of the Triumph Club, has been in touch with The Castle Manager regarding The Castle being a control stop on the 2010 Triumph Round Britain Reliability Run, in October.

The Castle Manager met with the Bude TIC manager and The Castle Restaurant leasee to discuss ways of collaborating and improving information flow.

- Building Maintenance

Bill and Alan, The Castle's cleaner/ caretakers, have been working very hard on re-painting The Blanchminster Room and Willoughby Gallery.

They have also carried out many small but necessary maintenance tasks, and very ingeniously, Alan succeeded with Bill's help to repair the Breeches Buoy interactive in the heritage centre.

With the exception of a ladder they have all the equipment necessary to begin cleaning of The Castle's outside windows.

- The Castle Staff

The Castle staff continues to work hard to ensure all visitors are made to feel welcome; customer service is first rate and the presentation of the building remains at a very high standard.

The Castle Manager went on a one-day seminar organised by Training for Excellence on E-commerce – see booklet. The seminar was extremely interesting highlighting as it did the rapid growth in e-commerce and social networking that all types of businesses need to stay abreast of and use to benefit from.

- The Castle Manager - Present and On-Going Priorities

- The Stratton Commemoration Weekend, 15th - 16th May.
- The Bude-Stratton Heritage Day, 8th August
- The Castle website
- Organising the Outreach Programme for 2010
- Working with the MDO on interpretation / Heritage Centre changes
- Marketing Strategy
- Weddings
- Helebridge
- Contacting all local schools to make introduction
- The Gallery Programme for 2011
- The Castle staff - embedding any changes / training and new procedure

Patricia Wright

The Castle Manager, Outreach & Marketing Officer

9 March 2010