

MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019

Voting members present: Cllrs: J Bryson (Chairman), S Browning, L Deely, T Gibbs, P Kelly, P La Broy, L Moores, F Partridge, H Partridge, T Philp, B Willingham

Officers present: Mr M Berridge - Castle Manager (CM)
Mrs J King - Heritage Development Officer (HDO)
Mrs T Gliddon – Committee Administrator (CA)
Miss E Hurlbut – Finance Officer (FO)

Public present: 2
Meeting Start time: 7pm

HC/017/19 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr: N Tucker

HC/018/19 To receive declarations of registered and non-registered disclosable pecuniary interests and non-registerable interests

None

HC/019/19 To consider requests for dispensations

None

HC/020/19 Minutes: To receive, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Heritage and Culture Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2019

Resolved: That the Minutes with the amendment below, were a true and accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman.

HC/021/19 Maximum 15 minutes for public present to make comments concerning the business of the Heritage and Culture Committee

A member of the BCHS spoke regarding their recent Exhibition at the Castle Heritage Centre and thanked the staff for their help. He also reported that the BCHS had engaged the Bideford Pipeband for the Heritage Day this year. The BCHS would like to invite the Mayor to their Bi-Centennial celebrations at the Falcon Hotel later this year.

HC/022/19 Correspondence

C Cllr P La Broy with the agreement of the Chairman reported to the committee through this agenda item on the outcome of meetings and correspondence with CC regarding the repositioning of the Compass Point building on Efford Downs. There were 2 options: i) to de-list the building from a Grade II listed building, demolish it and move it to a new safer inland position. ii) to keep the building listed, engage a 2 specialist builder to take it down brick by brick and rebuild in a safer inland position. Discussion took place regarding timescales and costs.

HC/023/19

To receive reports from Officers

- a) The report of the Castle Manager was received. The CM took questions from the members.
The report was noted.

- b) The report of the Heritage Development Officer was received. The HDO took questions from the members.
The report was noted.

HC/024/19

To consider how to dispose of unwanted books and other items in the Lower Wharf store

The HDO reported that there were Bude light leaflets and VHS videos in the store that could no longer be used. The Committee agreed that the HDO should have the video converted onto CD to keep in the archive and dispose of any others. The HDO reported on Dr Davis Knights book collection, which was bequeathed to BSTC. She informed the Committee that many of the books were indeed outside the remit of the Heritage Centre. Suggestions were made as to how to dispose of the books that would not be kept on the BSTC archive collection.

Resolved: that the office write to Mrs Knight to clarify the situation with regard to the disposal of the late Dr Knights book collection.

HC/025/19

To agree a date for the Battle of Stratton wreath laying ceremony

The suggested date for the annual Wreath laying was 12th May 2019 at 11am.

Resolved: That the HDO liaise with the residents of Bevil House regarding the proposed date for the Wreath laying.

HC/026/19

To consider options/ideas for the D-Day event 2019 and any actions and expenditure

Cllrs L Deely and T Gibbs reported on communications they had had with the organizers of the upcoming events. Discussion took place.

Resolved: That the office write to the organizers of the event offering the support and help of BSTC at their direction if they so wish.

There was discussion regarding the condition of the Rangers Memorial on Summerleaze Downs. Cllr F Partridge reported that this had been discussed with the Facilities Manager and any repairs/ground works were in hand.

The Meeting closed at 7.59pm

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

Café Limelight

A very busy 'quiet' period!! The café exceeded all expectations – in February, the café alone took £8600...a massive 20% increase on last year with the overall Castle takings being up 25% - in fact the café alone took more money than the overall takings in 2018 (café £8601 during Feb 2019.....overall Castle takings £8137 during Feb 2018). After being closed for our annual refurb, we re-opened with a Baby Shower High Tea for 15 on the Saturday – a lovely event booked in the conservatory which got us back up and running! Our café had its annual freshen up with snazzy tiling behind the coffee machine and fresh paint work which attracted much positive feedback from both regulars and new faces.



Bude Canal Society held two events in February... an open morning for their exhibition followed by their annual AGM on the following weekend!

Dairy Crest have kept good their promise to rebook our space for workshops with a small meeting in the Studio and a larger all-day workshop booked for next week.

This week we have catered for a small wedding reception in the conservatory, an intimate high tea for 6 to celebrate 25 years! Looking forward, we already have bookings for more high teas.

Café Limelight has been shortlisted for an Environmental Award by the Cornwall Heritage Awards. We had to demonstrate how environmentally aware we are in our operations in the café. Award night is in a couple of weeks where our Café Supervisor and Heritage Officer will be attending.

To add to our SUP free statement, we are discontinuing sachets of sauces and jams with immediate effect. We have also made sure that our teas, coffees and hot chocolates are either Fairtrade or ethically sourced, and we continue to expand our offering of vegan and gluten free items.

Looking ahead to the summer, we are in the process of recruitment and plan to take on at least another 2 casual staff members to help with what is promising to be a very busy time.

We are also planning to offer a small takeaway menu of selected items as this seemed to be a popular request last year for beach or lawn picnics.

Studio Workshops

A program of workshops have been put together for the Studio and at present there are 10 workshops booked, two of these spread over 2 days. It is hoped this will be added to making the Studio an active environment. See attached poster.

Wedding Fair

The Wedding Fair which is set for Sunday 19th May is taking shape with most stalls inside The Castle now taken. We are just trying to firm up some spaces outside. There are also 6 mini workshops booked throughout the day from makeup to flowers and cakes to photography. Our Wedding Coordinator will be present throughout the day selling The Castle as the 'go-to' venue in Bude.

Bude Earth Day

Our Event Organiser has started planning the day and has liaised with a number of organisations

who are keen to have a presence on the day. She has also started to look and book people for talks and workshops during the day which will either be in The Castle or out on the lawn. We are speaking to an artist who will hopefully run a craft workshop in the Studio using recycled or natural products. I have designed a logo to help market the event and will give an identity to the day.



Hire Events

The usual events have re-booked for this year: Christian Family Fun Day, Carnival, RNLI week and each Brass Band have booked 2 Sundays through the summer to play on the bandstand. One or both are playing during Heritage Day too. The Running event have confirmed that they are returning for the 3rd year running; each year this has gained in popularity and there is a possibility that there is a ultra marathon this year, running to Westward Ho! and back again over 2 days. Miracle Theatre are returning this year too to put on an evening show on the lawn in August.

Gallery Programme

The programme for exhibitions for the two galleries upstairs has been set for April 2019 to April 2020. This has also been set for the Castle leaflet which is now at the printers and soon will be distributed. The Gallery Organiser has even started to set the program for 2020/21 as demand has been quite high.

Library

The Library came under our wing on 4th March and the staff are thrilled to be a part of BSTC. There has been some teething issues with regard to technologies and alarms during the transfer, but it is hoped that these will be short lived; if not resolved by the time of this meeting. I will be spending time in the library, getting to know the operation and chatting to staff about their ideas for the future. We have replaced all the chairs in the computer section as these were very worn and looked tatty. Some of the floor tiles have marks on but these are being replaced by CC very soon.

Heritage and Culture Committee meeting – 14.03.19

Item 6b

Report by Heritage Development Officer

The Barge workshop

Following the previous meeting, I would like to reiterate the Facilities Manager (FM), view on Health and Safety regulations concerning volunteers. The stipulation in the Health and Safety regulations is that water and toilet facilities *should* be provided. The FM notes the use of the word should and not must, and is therefore happy that BCHS volunteers can open the workshop throughout this Summer as usual. However, the FM does stress that a long-term plan for more adequate facilities will have to be looked at, especially if the workshop is to be opening for longer. I will be speaking to BCHS in due course to establish which Sundays the workshop will be open.

A team of BCHS volunteers have now carried out work on the tide mill timbers to clean and remove any debris so that the maker's marks can be more visible. The Gurney display boards, previously

housed in The Heritage Centre, have been recycled to create a display board and a new display table. I am working on new interpretation, which will be in place for the summer.

Historic Environment Records

I have been in touch with the Historic Environment Record Assistant at Cornwall Council. She sent me the link to download the Historic Environment Records and I have saved all of the information to the BSTC shared drive. There are a lot of files, mainly reports concerning listed building, scheduled monuments and other relevant sites in Bude and the surrounding parishes. All of the information can still be accessed through Cornwall Council. There is also an interactive map on the Cornwall council website, which can have layers added to it to show historical reference points.

Science Discovery Day, celebrating the inventions of Sir Goldsworthy Gurney- Saturday 9th March

There has been a lot of interest in the day and the workshop sessions exploring mirrors and light and steam driven engines are now fully booked. It is hoped that the day will be a success and could lead to similar events being planned in the future.

Cornwall Heritage Awards

The award ceremony is on the 21st of March, myself and Café Supervisor will be attending. We have been shortlisted in three categories, Object of the Year, Environmental and Innovation awards.

Recent training

I recently attended a training session at Wheal Martyn on Spectrum 5, which is the set of museum standards set out by the Arts Council. The standards have recently been updated and it is important that I keep up to date, as they underpin expectations for Accreditation. The day was very informative and I have been able to pass on some of the key points to the archive team, together we are looking at how we can further improve how we care for objects. On the 4th April, I am attending a workshop about the new Accreditation process, which has also changed since I completed the last return. Both training sessions are free, as they are funded by the South West Museums Development programme.

Donations:

Since the last meeting, we have had a couple of interesting donations. A set of original documents relating to leases for land around Summerleaze and Crooklets. Also, a very unusual white and gold cup and saucer which has 'A present from Bude' stamped on the saucer.

