

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th JUNE 2019

Voting members present: Cllrs: T Gibbs (Chairman), S Browning, J Bryson, P La Broy, L Moores, P Moores, F Partridge, H Partridge, T Philp, P Tilzey, N Tucker

Officers present: Mark Berridge – Castle & Communities Manager (CCM)
Janine King – Heritage & Development Officer – (HDO)
Tracey Gliddon – Committee Administrator (CA)

Public present: 2

Meeting start time: 6.30pm

- C/014/19** **To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Cllr R Willingham and non-committee member Cllr L Deely.
- C/015/19** **To receive declarations of registered and non-registered disclosable pecuniary interests and non-registerable interests**
Cllr L Moores declared a NPI in item 9.
- C/016/19** **Dispensations: To consider requests for dispensations**
None
- C/017/19** **Minutes: To receive, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Communities Committee Meeting held on 9th May 2019**
Resolved: that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
- C/018/19** **Public participation – a maximum of 15 minutes for public present to make comments concerning the business of the Committee (maximum of 2 minutes per person - dependent on numbers present; questions must be directed through the Chairman)**
A member of the BCHS present spoke regarding item 9 and the placement of the plaque in the Heritage Centre.
- C/019/19** **To receive a reports from:**
a) Castle & Communities Manager (CCM) – The CCM discussed the recent Earth Day and the possibility of another event next year. It was reported that the Willow Whale made at the event had been donated to Bude Junior School.
The Committee thanked the CCM and the report was noted.

b) Heritage Development Officer (HDO) – The Committee thanked the HDO and the Castle volunteers for their continued efforts and the report was noted.
- C/020/19** **To agree new charges for outside spaces at the Castle**
Lengthy discussion took place surrounding the proposals.
Resolved: that the item be deferred to the next Committee meeting.

C/021/19 **To agree the strategic objectives and priorities of the Committee**
Following a meeting of the working group to look at the objectives and priorities for the Committee, a further meeting of the group to discuss the agreed options thus far will take place on 28th June 2019 at 11am. The meeting is open to all interested Committee members.

C/022/19 **To consider an offer from BCHS of a plaque commemorating the 200 year anniversary of Bude Canal for permanent siting in the Heritage Centre**
Resolved: that BSTC gratefully accept the plaque from Bude-Canal & Harbour Society, that the CCM and HDO be delegated to approve the position of the plaque for display at the Heritage Centre.

C/023/19 **To receive the 2018/19 trading statement for the Limelight Café**
The Committee thanked the Café Supervisor and her Staff for their hard work in making the Café Limelight a continued success.
Resolved: to accept the 2018/19 trading statement for the Limelight Café.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Chairman's Signature.....Date.....

Castle & Communities Manager Report
Communities Committee Meeting 09-05-19

Café Limelight (by Café Supervisor)

There has been a steady increase in business, with a 10% increase in café takings during April compared to last year.

Easter weekend was extremely busy with lots of holiday makers enjoying the lovely sunshine! By contrast, the following week was very quiet as it appeared that everyone had returned home, taking the glorious weather with them!

The café had been shortlisted for an Environmental Award by Cornish Heritage Awards....and we were awarded a 'Highly Commended' award for our work towards eliminating SUP, offering refills for water bottles and cutting down the food miles of our products.

Dairy Crest returned as promised, holding a full day workshop in the Willoughby gallery and having a buffet lunch. Again, very well received and I am confident they will become regulars over time.

Mothering Sunday was steady with lots of cream teas and cakes served.

The Heart Foundation started their sponsored walk from the Castle lawns on a Saturday morning at the beginning of April. This was a circular walk which meant that we welcomed lots of the participants back inside the café for lunches and refreshment; thankfully it was a dry day and many sat outside on the decking area.

One of our artists, who was exhibiting in the Willoughby Gallery, held a meeting about local history, and in particular about the Pyworthy area, which encouraged a group of locals to stay and enjoy cream teas after the talks had finished.

High teas are continuing to attract interest, and a new menu has been introduced which seems to be popular. It continues to be extremely good value and we have received some lovely comments about it and the view!!

This week (06 May) sees the return of both The National Trust and the NHS with full workshops requiring buffets and refreshments. The National Trust has had to be moved up to the Willoughby Gallery in order to accommodate their growing numbers and the NHS have booked 3 days in the Willoughby Gallery to hold their workshops.

I am pleased to say that the new members of the team have settled in very well and are starting to find their feet before the mad season fully kicks off!

Looking forward, we have several weddings on the horizon who are interested in buffets and drink receptions and I am keen to work alongside the Wedding Co-ordinator to ensure that we are able to offer this. I have finally put together a menu portfolio which will be available for our couples to see and will hopefully encourage them to have something after the ceremony within The Castle.

Staff Changes

The Wedding Coordinator has taken to her role and is going through all the paperwork ensuring that everything is up to date and all correspondence has been made. She had her first wedding last weekend which went really well and by all accounts, they continued to enjoy themselves at their reception in the Parkhouse Centre. The Gallery & Events Organiser is enjoying her new hours and concentrating heavily on the up-and-coming events.

Studio Workshops

So far there has been Batik, Tye-Dye and pottery workshops in the studio, all well attended with all artists happy with the turn out. A couple more workshops have been added to the programme and bookings are going well.

Wedding Fair

The Wedding Fair, which is in a couple of weeks, is mostly organised. There are 18 stall holders who will be spread over 3 rooms of The Castle. Outside on the lawn will be some tents which will also

house the small number of workshops that are being run. The event will be opened by a group of dancers and there will also be a small pen of Alpacas – a new modern addition to weddings! Of course, we will be promoting The Castle as the 'go-to' venue.

Bude Earth Day

Our environmental event is shaping up nicely with lots of interesting talks from 11 different groups. There will be tents on the lawn, which will house some of the talks and will be accompanied with a number of stall holders. There will be a large recycled sculpture outside with an art trail. There is an innovative, recycled, useable product competition. Story telling for children and a whale willow weaving sculpture being created on the day. Lots to see, do and listen to activities.

Library

The Library staff continue to be happy with transfer and feel that they are being looked after well and prefer the change of ownership. I am looking at staffing levels and speaking with the Town Clerk as there are times when they are very stretched, particularly if there is any sickness and this is causing some difficulty in covering rotas. We have already employed a casual person and the Senior Library Assistant is always on the look out for volunteers.

Technical issues with CC's IT systems, though seem to be diminishing, are still a problem. A phone line has been lost and some of the terminals are still sporadic.

The team are going to be selling books from a table outside which are either old or non-used books from the present stock.

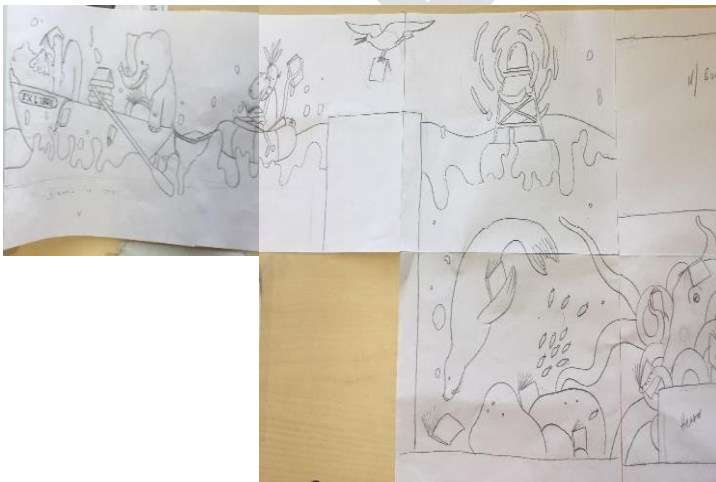
The team are also thinking of possible clubs/groups that could be run from the library. They are also gearing up for the Summer Reading Challenge which is a very busy period.

The Senior Library Assistant, Councillor Bryson and myself went to a Cornwall Libraries Partnership event held at the Royal Cornwall Showground in early April where we got to meet people from many other libraries and attend a number a short workshops. We all found this a rewarding day, picking up a lot of information, some ideas and also confirming that the team are already doing a lot of what was being suggested.

A member of staff has designed a mural to go in the Children's section which will help brighten up the interior.

A Facebook page has been set up for the library and this will be used to inform the community of what the library has to offer.

The team are very excited for the future.



Cornwall Heritage Awards ceremony:

I am thrilled to be able to report that The Castle won two awards and was highly commended in two other categories, at the Cornwall Heritage Awards, held on the 21st March. The Café Supervisor and myself attended the evening, which was held at Trenderway Farm, nr. Looe. The creation of a new exhibition space, currently housing the 'Branch Line to Bude' exhibition was highly commended in the Innovation category. Café Limelight was also highly commended in the Environmental category. The public vote for 'Object of the Year' was very close with only a few votes in it at the end. It is fantastic that the Gurney stove beat the other objects, all of which had their own unique story. I hope it will encourage more people to find out about Gurney and his work. It was also with a tremendous sense of pride that we accepted the Judges Special award. This was very unexpected and the only category which cannot be entered and is decided by the judging panel. In presenting the award, The Castle was praised for the quality of displays, use of space, environmental policies and overall ambition and vision for the future. The judging panel was made up of museums professionals from across the UK, many of whom congratulated us following the ceremony.

Royal Cornwall Museum visit:

At the time of writing this report, I will be visiting the Royal Cornwall Museum on 1st May to meet Collections and Exhibitions Manager. The meeting is to discuss borrowing artefacts to display during an exhibition about medieval Cornwall, which I am planning for next year.

Coastal Communities wAVE project meeting:

I am also due to attend a meeting about the wAVE project in Redruth on 2nd May. The meeting will be an opportunity to meet the project team and find out more about the project and what it will mean for us. The afternoon is to include a talk from the CEO of The Space, which is a digital agency set up by The Arts Council and the BBC to help promote digital engagement across the arts and cultural sector. I will of course fully update the committee at the meeting.

Dr Knight book collection:

Further to discussions at the last committee meeting, I wrote to Mrs Knight to ask if she would be happy for the Council to redistribute books unwanted by the Heritage Centre. The response, via email was as follows:

Dear Mrs King

Thank you for your letter about the book collection. I was aware there were more books that you could display and even want to. I think David didn't know when to stop! I still have several hundred of books that didn't get to Bude and I really don't know what to do with these!

Of course we are very happy for you to redistribute those which are not relevant for the archive.

Best wishes to you all at the Castle

Ruth Knight

Therefore, I have arranged for the library to take some of the books, as they would like to have a second hand bookstall. It is also planned to have a stall for the books during Bude Earth Festival next month and if successful, another stall for Heritage Festival.

Battle of Stratton Wreath Laying ceremony:

Following the previous committee meeting, I contacted Mr and Mrs Goodson and the Sealed Knot to make the arrangements for the annual wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Stratton. I can confirm that the wreath laying ceremony will be taking place on Sunday 12th May, with the Sealed Knot mustering at around 10.45, with the ceremony to begin at 11am.

The Barge Workshop:

The former Gurney display board has now been transformed into a new display table. A new information laminate for visitors has been produced and will be in place when the workshop opens. New interpretation panels for the timbers and Gregory's workshop have been ordered. The floor space will be rearranged slightly to give the timbers more prominence. I am in the process of redesigning a display board next to the archive office, which is no longer in use. I intend to include information and photographs of the workshop, as well as directions to encourage more visitors. I will be liaising with Mr Jewell to establish a rota for BCHS volunteers to open the workshop this summer. Once the dates are confirmed, I will be working with the Marketing and Communications Officer to ensure that the workshop is promoted as much as possible.

The Forge:

'Fred' is now in place at the forge, to give visitors more of a sense of what it would have been like as a working forge. An 'A' board interpretation panel is on order, which will stand outside the entrance. I plan to create the illusion of burning coals on the forge itself and perhaps introduce some audio to enhance the visitor experience, this is work in progress.

Heritage Festival:

Plans are well under way for this year's Heritage Festival. I have Cornish folk band The Countrymen confirmed, The Carnkie Cloggers, a Cornish dance group, a static bird of prey display as well as Mazed North, Cornish storytellers. There is also going to be lots for children, including a surf simulator and a magician.

Paintings by William Wood Deane:

The pair of paintings of St Michael's Mount and The Mont-Saint-Michel that hang in the back stairwell of The Castle have recently been cleaned. We are very pleased with the results; both paintings have been transformed to reveal much more detail and are brighter in appearance.

Recent donations:

The self-published autobiography of 98 year old, Arthur Squire, who served on HMS Bude. He recalls it as a very happy ship and has many fond memories of serving on her.