

Minutes of the County Hall Management Committee held on 18 May 2010 in the Old Abbey House, Abingdon

**Present**

Cllr Margaret Crick  
Cllr Patrick Lonergan  
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer      Chair  
Cllr Martin Smith              Vice-Chair  
Cllr Lorraine Smith  
Chair Finance and General Purposes Committee/ Leader (ex-officio)  
Mayor of Abingdon (ex officio)

**In Attendance**

Nigel Warner                      Town Clerk  
Sandra Hill                        Deputy Town Clerk  
Carol Anderson                  Oxfordshire County Council's Museum Service

The Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Duncan Brown, took the Chair and extended his thanks to everyone for the past year's work.

1      **Election of Chair**

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** that Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer be Chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.

*The Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Duncan Brown, left the meeting at 7.01pm*

2      **Election of Vice Chair**

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** that Cllr Martin Smith be vice chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee for municipal year 2010/2011.

*Cllrs Crick and Legge joined the meeting at 7.02pm*

3      **Co-option of Committee Members**

**Resolved** that the co-option of a representative Member from the Vale of White Horse District Council, should take place at the next meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee on 24 August 2010, when the nomination would be known.

**Resolved** that Mr Peter Clare, Abingdon Museum Friends, be a co-opted member of the County Hall Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.

4      **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Beth Fleming, Dr Lauren Gilmour, Peter Clare and Chris Gale.

5      **Declarations of Interests**

Cllrs Julie Mayhew-Archer and Patrick Lonergan declared a personal interest as Members of the Vale of White Horse District Council who grant aid the Museum.

6 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Museum Management Committee held on 23 February 2010, be signed as a true and correct record.

7 **Matters Arising**

The Chair updated the Committee on her recent meeting with the Friends of Abingdon who have offered to exhibit some Museum artefacts, such as the Timeline, within the Abbey Buildings when the County Hall building closes for redevelopment later in the year.

8 **Financial and Performance Monitoring Report**

The Town Clerk tabled his report highlighting the Committee's key objectives and progress in 2009/10:

Obtain planning permission and listed building consent for a suitable scheme:

- *Obtained September 2009;*

Launch a fund-raising campaign to build on the existing monies raised and set up a charitable trust

- *Due to the assistance of the Museum Friends, which has registered as a charity, it is not necessary to set up a separate trust.*

To obtain a stage two pass to release the Heritage Lottery Funding set aside towards the building phase of the scheme.

- *Stage 2 application submitted October 2009 and stage two pass awarded March 2010.*

The following sums have been awarded:

- *Heritage Lottery Fund grant amounting to 56% of total eligible project cost of £3,045,806, a sum of up to £1,710,000.*
- *Abingdon Town Council has a sum of £384,824 earmarked towards the Project; a further £49,000 will be available in 2011/12.*
- *Oxfordshire County Council has earmarked a sum of £300,000 in its capital budget;*
- *Vale of White Horse District Council has earmarked a sum of £300,000 in its capital budget.*
- *Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust has awarded a grant of £10,000 towards the pump restoration.*
- *Oxfordshire Buildings Trust has awarded a grant of £10,000 towards the roof.*

*Since the stage two award from the Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2010 the following grants have been awarded:*

- *Waste Recycling Group Limited: £45,000 (net of matched funding).*
- *The Aurelius Trust: £3,500.*
- *The Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust: £2,500.*
- *The grants from the Aurelius Trust and the Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust are sums secured by Abingdon Museum Friends and these donations now total £8,847.*

Key Objective for 2010/11 - subject to formal confirmation, and acceptance, of the Heritage Lottery Grant to commence building phase of the Abingdon County Hall Museum Improvement and Access Scheme.

He further reported that the revaluation of the County Hall building by the Council's insurers, prior to the development work, is pending. There were no material changes to the expected outturn on the management accounts, beyond those previously reported in February 2010, with the exception of the amount apportioned from central support salaries. This is a reflection of more officer time being allocated to the improvement and access project rather than a general increase in administrative salaries which are overall some 4% below budget.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk's report be received and noted.

9 **County Hall Improvement and Access Project and other Museum Matters**

The Curator was unable to attend the meeting; therefore this item was not discussed.

10 **Exhibition Programme**

In the absence of the Curator the exhibition programme/report was not discussed.

11 **Administrator's Report**

**Resolved** that the Administrator's tabled report be received and noted.

12 **Education and Family-Friendly Activities**

**Resolved** that the Education and Family-Friendly Activities tabled report be received and noted.

13 **Museum Friends**

**Resolved** that the Museum Friends report be received and noted. The Chair formally relayed her gratitude to the Museum Friends for their continuing support and to Peter Clare, Sheila Hills and Ruth Weinberg for their hard work.

14 **Meeting Dates for 2010/11**

**Resolved** that the dates for the municipal year 2010/2011 be noted.

15 **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

In accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, as summarised below.

- The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2010