

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

COUNTY HALL MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 2020

Agenda item 9: Report of the Abingdon Museum Friends

1 Friends Continuing Support for the Museum.

- 1.1 Long standing Treasurer for the Abingdon Museum Friends has now retired after many good years of service. The current Secretary, Mr Steven Purnell has put himself forward to be co-opted member the County Hall Museum Management Committee.
- 1.2 The link between AMF and the Museum management continues to develop a closer working relationship with the intention of streamlining future opportunities for fund raising with targeted objectives. This may be of help with any Museum plans for large scale projects or undertakings. It is hoped that the Friends can use the Museum as host to meetings and talks when the Coronavirus restrictions are lifted and physical meetings and talks can resume.
- 1.3 Abingdon Museum Friends have offered £1000 towards the cost of making the museum safe to reopen, please see the reference in the minutes below.

2 Abingdon Museum Friends Committee Meeting 21/09/2020 – Minutes

Present: Sue Stevens (Chair), Steven Purnell (Secretary), Judy White, Peter Hallowell.

Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting having been duly circulated were discussed by those present, the only matter arising related to Outings and Talks, and is summarised under that item below.

Finance

The treasurer previously circulated the accounts for the year ending 29th February 2020, showing a total of £4074.64 carried forward to fiscal year 2020- Subscriptions were £100 down from the previous year, the secretary stated that this may have been in part due to deaths over the last year.

With Peter Clare stepping down as treasurer this year, the committee will take on his responsibilities until a suitable replacement is found. The secretary will send a communication to all members with the accounts for this year and asking for volunteers to fill the role.

The secretary made the members of the committee aware that the Museum had incurred significant costs due to making the venue Covid-19 Safe for reopening. The total value of this was approximately £2,348.21. The secretary produced a record of what was spent on different items and asked the committee if they would like to pay for any item or otherwise contribute to these reopening costs. The committee had a short discussion after which they unanimously agreed to donate £1,000 towards the reopening costs.

Outings and Talks

The Fawley trip rescheduling is still on hold pending information from Fawley railway & museum.

The committee then discussed at length what to do regarding the AGM and talks by Trevor Rowley & David Spiers that had been scheduled for 5th November 2020 & 2nd December 2020 respectively, which will most likely not be able to go ahead due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The committee decided to cancel all physical meetings until the AGM on 8th April 2021. However, the committee will look at hosting those talks planned for this year as Zoom meetings. Judy White will contact Trevor Rowley to ask if he will give his presentation over Zoom and the secretary will contact David Speirs to inquire the same. The secretary will then run these Zoom meetings if the speakers agree to go ahead, he will also invite the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society to participate if they wish. The chairwomen, Sue Stevens, offered to cancel St. Helen's Church Centre for the previously arranged meetings this year.

Fund Raising

No fund-raising suggestions were brought before the committee.

AOB

No other business was raised by the committee members.

Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be hosted via Zoom on 7th December 2020 at 19:30.

3 **Decisions**

3.1 Members are requested to note this report.

Steven Purnell (Secretary)
Abingdon Museum Friends
1st October 2020