

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 01 AUGUST 2022 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT

Councillor Shaun Ford (Chairman)
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Andrew Croft
Councillor Mrs Elaine Hooper
Councillor Ms Amanda Schonhut

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Mrs Amanda Wheeler (Vice-Chair). Attending on-line.
One member of public in attendance

168. To Receive public representation in respect of the business on the agenda (Point 1)

None.

169. Apologies and reasons for absence (Agenda Point 2) - *Committee to receive and resolve reasons for absence in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 1972*

Councillor David Taylor (Mayor), and Councillor Mrs Joanna Winterbourne submitted their apologies, and these were noted.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Councillor John Dawson, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Schonhut and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the apologies for absence are accepted

170. Declaration of Interest (Agenda Point 3) - *Committee to receive declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, and to consider any applications for dispensations in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests.*

Councillor Elaine Hooper declared a Personal Interest as she is a member of the Stamford & District Local History Society.

Councillor Amanda Schonhut declared a Personal Interest as she is a member of the Civic Society.

171. To Confirm the Minutes - (Agenda Point 4)

The Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on Monday, 06 June 2022 and Monday 04 July 2022 had been confirmed as a true record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

172. Action Points: - (Agenda Point 5)

- a. Feedback on Spirit of Stamford consultation and expanding consultation using a QR Code*
It was confirmed that arrangements are progressing for the consultation events scheduled on Friday 12 August at St. Michaels Churchyard (10am – 4pm), Friday 19 August and Saturday 20th August St. Michael Churchyard (10am – 12noon) and Recreation Ground (2pm – 3pm). Councillors have been asked to support these sessions and to contact the Town Clerk in respect of their availability. The Chairman confirmed a crib sheet will be available for Councillors. There will be a gazebo erected which will be fitted-out with information boards, a children's corner for colouring, and a back-board displaying the 10 objects depicting the Spirit of Stamford for individuals to select their preferred object. A

facsimile of Daniel Lambert and a reproduction belt will be available. The Town Clerk confirmed that Anand in St. Mary's Street had agreed to construct a synthetic reproduction belt, equivalent in size to Daniel Lambert's waist, at an estimated cost of £40.00. It was noted that this exhibit could be used for future displays and similar events.

Proposal 2 - It was proposed by Councillor S Ford, seconded by Councillor Mrs E Hooper and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agreed the commissioning of a replica Daniel Lambert belt for the consultation at an estimated cost of £40.00.

The Chairman confirmed that all the publicity boards and consultation documentation is being designed and produced through Frank Newbon signwriters. A pull up banner is also to be created through Gareth Moorton Design. Following discussion, it was also noted that A3 size laminated posters are also to be produced which it is hoped will be attached to the hoarding outside the library. These posters will be of the 10 objects and will carry a QR Code which will enable people to vote for their preferred object. The data will be gathered to establish the object which it thought to most represent the Spirit of Stamford. Another QR Code will also be available on the consultation document to gather individual feedback on establishing a museum in Stamford.

It was noted that a grant application had been submitted to MDEM (Museum Development East Midlands) to cover the cost of the consultation and the outcome is awaited.

Councillor Wheeler informed the Committee that a Museum Twitter and Instagram account had now been created to ensure wider publication in respect of the Council's Museum project.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor S Ford, seconded by Councillor A Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** that a cost of £250 is allocated towards the posters and £490.00 for the design and procurement of the pull-up banner.

b. Designing the Town Hall Cellars as Crime & Punishment Exhibit – The Chairman informed the Committee that the concept of adapting the cellars as an immersive Crime and Punishment Escape Room is being examined following previous discussions. A meeting has been arranged with Sacha Coward a museum consultant and Escape Room specialist who will visit the cellars and the Town Hall with the objective of providing the Town Council with a proposal. It was noted that Mr Coward has worked with many museums and would be looking at how to create an effective interactive museum in the Town Hall with the knowledge that it is an adaptable working environment.

The Town Clerk enquired whether the Committee is comfortable in operating tours to include the Cellars over the Heritage Weekend 16-17 September 2022. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and to discuss this with Mr Coward to get some ideas as to how the space could be utilised immediately.

Councillor Schonhut informed the Committee the concept of Escape Rooms is a very positive opportunity and operates very successfully in Grantham. These events are rated dependant on difficulty and could include a level for children. On average the cost is £65.00 for a group of three people.

It was reported that Nottingham has a Crime and Punishment Museum with an entry fee in the region of £12.00 and individuals are permitted to walk around on their own. On paying the entrance fee, the visitor is provided with an entry wrist band with a criminal's name and

date of their trial. This encourages the visitor interaction to discover the history behind the name on their wrist band.

173. Budget and Funding Opportunities – (Agenda Point 6)

- a. *Funding application to Museum Development East Midland* – It was confirmed that all the details to support the grant application had been submitted to MDEM and we expect to hear about this funding imminently.
- b. *Review Museum Budget* – It was noted that research is still in progress, but it was anticipated a detailed budget will be prepared for submission in September. It was also observed that investigations are on-going to identify a future location for the Stamford Museum either on Broad Street or on the High Street. It was considered crucial to ensure that any location is near the Collection Store building.

174. Evaluate status of Timeline towards Accreditation submission – (Agenda Point 7)

- a. *Consultation Opportunities March – October 2022*- The Chairman observed that two consultations are running simultaneously, one is to gather public feedback on a Stamford Museum and the other is the consultation on the Spirit of Stamford.
- b. *Prepare Museum Budget, September 2022* – The Chairman confirmed details are being gathered to ensure that a detailed budget will be able to be submitted in September to the Finance Committee for consideration and then to full Council.
- c. *Redrafting Museum Offer, October 2022* – The redrafting of the museum offer is being undertaken by Jim Grevatte in consultation with the Town Clerk. This document will be examined at the September meeting in preparation for submission to Lincolnshire County Council. It is anticipated that following County Council approval, transfer arrangements will be put in place and Stamford Town Council would take possession of the Collection Store, the Museum Collection and Discover Stamford.
- d. *Drafting advert for Heritage Officer / Curator, November 2022* – The recruitment for this role is planned for November 2022, by this time a much clearer detail of the specification and the vision will have been determined. It was noted that Claire Browne has been engaged to support the Council in respect of this element.
- e. *Preparation for Museum Accreditation submission, April 2023* – It is anticipated that by this date all arrangements in respect of the Collection will be in place and the post of curator filled. At this stage the curator would be able to contribute their vision for the museum.

175. Any other business

The Town Clerk suggested that the Committee consider that when the transfer of the Discover Stamford has been achieved, it may also provide a suitable location for the Stamford Information Centre. It was considered a logical location. It was noted that Stamford Information Ambassadors are now meeting the coaches at the Bus Station and directing visitors to the Town Centre. Councillor Croft informed the Committee that SKDC Leader Councillor Cooke is examining updating the directional sign pointers. It was also considered that via the Prosperity Fund, the information units in the High Street and Sheep Market could be upgraded and made interactive.

176. Date of next meeting (Agenda Point 8) – Monday 05 September 2022 at 6pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.40pm