**MINUTES OF CHARTER TRUSTEE MEETING**

**HELD 7TH DECEMBER 2015**

**AT MARGATE OLD TOWN MUSEUM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Robin Edwards, Cllr Roz Dixon, Cllr Mrs Iris Johnston, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, Cllr Gary Taylor, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Julie Dellar, Cllr Jonathan Curran,

Cllr Edward Jaye-Jones.

Finance Clerk. Carol Partington, Clerk to the Trustees. Ingrid Spencer,

Also in attendance, Clifford East, Mayor’s Attendant.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Emma Dawson, Cllr Ash Ashbee, Cllr Linda Potts, Cllr Chris Wells.
2. The meeting opened with a presentation from the Trustees of Margate Museum.

Firstly, the Board of Trustees introduced themselves and gave a very brief outline of the area of expertise they could bring to the Board. The Trustees are: Robin Haddon (Chairman) Helen Leask RIBA, Felicity Stafford MA. Dr Inbal Livne. Ian Dickie. Peter Thomas RIBA.

They set out the Visions for the museum complex and the way they intended branding the Museum. This was followed by a brief outline of the Collection and then the Buildings and associated problems. The presentation finished with the Trustees’ Mission Statement and Action Plan.

The Charter Trustees received the presentation favourably and were very supportive of the Boards’ aims. Cllr Iris Johnston proposed that the Charter Trustees lend their support to the Trustees of the museum, this was seconded by Cllr Mick Tomlinson.

The Trustees were asked whether it would be possible/acceptable to have a Charter Trustee representative at the meetings of the Museum Board in a non-voting capacity. Cllrs Curran, Johnston and Dixon were all interested.

**MINUTE 34**

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There being no amendments to the minutes, Cllr Iris Johnston proposed accepting the minutes, seconded by Cllr Julie Dellar. Minutes accepted nem con.

**MINUTE 35**

1. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Minute 33. Cllr Tomlinson had ordered both Greek and Cypriot flags at £5.95 each. A

5’ x 3’ Margate Town flag would cost £56.00 from Midland Flags.

Minute 31. Cllr Curran stated that there was no hard and fast figure for the renovation of the Old Town Hall. Furthermore, where do the Trustees go in order to get accurate quotes; that a break-down of costs should be requested as it appears that the £300k is just an arbitrary figure.

Bob Poulter is now in charge of Estates.

**MINUTE 36**

 **6 MAYOR’S REPORT**

1. The Mayor reported on the outcome of the Mayor’s Ball held on 31st October which raised almost £1400 for the Mayor’s Fund.

There had been an excellent turn-out for the Remembrance Day Parade and Service and the RBL were very pleased with how well the day had gone. We are tentatively looking at working with the RBL to commemorate the Battle of the Somme on July 1st 2016, as well as working with the MOD/TDC regarding Armed Forces Day which may be combined with celebrating the 100th anniversary of Manston. The Mayor thanked Carol Partington for all her hard work in organising the Parade on 28th November.

The Mayor informed the Trustees that £250 had been given to the Margate Town Team towards the costs of the Christmas lights. Without this support, the lights would not have gone ahead.

1. Cllr Jaye-Jones suggested booking a live group for the Mayor’s Ball next year Now.
2. The Finance Clerk reported that we have not received notification from Westgate Town Council that it had accepted the payment made, in full and final settlement.

Richard Styles had submitted a FOI request. Cllr Iris Johnston had written personally to Richard Styles and also the Mayor of Ramsgate, Trevor Shonk, from whom she had received an unpleasant reply.

Cllr Tomlinson stated that ‘vexatious’ requests made under FOI do not have to be replied to if the aim of the request was ‘just to cause trouble’.

Cllr Johnston stated that the Charter Trustees had a duty of care to staff and to protect them from the stress of receiving such abusive missives.

iii. Cllr Johnston is chasing TDC to have an officer present at the next Old Town Hall Working Group meeting at 10.30a.m. on 11th January 2016.

**MINUTE 37**

 **7. FINANCE REPORT**

The Finance Clerk went through the accounts to date. Code 1110 was a transfer from the Mayor’s Fund to enable VAT to be reclaimed.

Cllr Jaye-Jones again requested that copies of *all* financial information be sent to Charter Trustees at least five days prior to the meeting to allow time for the accounts to be studied.

Cllr Johnston had received notice of a request from Café G via Sands for funding to pay for the New Year’s Eve fireworks. Cllr Tomlinson was concerned that the Charter Trustees were being seen as a ‘soft touch’ and being asked to fund things in the Town again. The cost of the fireworks was originally £6000, the figure then dropped to £4500. The Trustees were being asked to fund £750. It was questioned whether the Trustees had the right and authority to pay for such items. Cllr Tomlinson raised the lack of an I & E account in respect of the Quad Bikes, Cllr Jaye-Jones concurred.

Cllr Edwards stated that the system has to change; that organisations need to apply each year and put forward a case for support, the same way they do to TDC.

Sands Hotel had put in a bid to TDC for funding of £3000 for the fireworks. Cllr Johnston proposed supporting the fireworks to the tune of £500, Cllr Roz Dixon seconded. The motion was put to the vote, eight Trustees were in support, one against.

**MINUTE 38**

 **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i. Cllr Jaye-Jones asked if the lease on the Media Centre was a self-repairing one. Cllr Johnston was concerned about the lack of heating in the Media Centre offices and stated that the grassed area at the rear of the Centre had originally been given as a playground for children but was now being used by Looking Ahead as a car park. Cllr Jaye-Jones requested a copy of the lease. Cllr Johnston was adamant that only the ground floor lease, for use as a nursery, had been given to Mr Rattigan and questioned how he had become lease-holder for the whole building.

ii. Clifford East, the Mayor’s Attendant, drew the Trustees attention to the lack of security at the Old Town Hall and that this might affect the insurance position.

iii. The Trustees were asked whether they wished to see Twinning revived as a budget provision would have to be made.

Iv There would be a meeting on **11 January 2016** on the Precept.

The Mayor thanked the Museum Trustees for their presentation and their hospitality. Cllr Tomlinson congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on how well they had fulfilled their respective roles.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.