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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

BRECKLAND AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Held on Monday, 14 May 2018 at 10.30 am in
Ancient House, Museum, Thetford

PRESENT

Councillor C. Bowes	Mr F. Eagle
Mr H. E. J. Clarke (Chairman)	Mr T. J. Jermy
Mr R.G. Kybird	Mr M. Kiddle-Morris
Mr P.J. Duigan (Vice-Chairman)	

Also Present

Mr D Blackburn
Mr J Ward

In Attendance

Leanne Neave	- Democratic Services Officer
Hannah Jackson	- Operations Manager
Melissa Hawker	- Learning Officer

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9/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

10/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Darby and W Richmond.

Robin Hanley and Oliver Bone had also sent apologies.

11/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised he had attended the Welcome to the Workhouse event and it was very enjoyable.

He confirmed that Councillor Duigan would chair the September meeting as he was unable to attend.

12/18 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

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13/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

14/18 GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE REPORT

Hannah Jackson the Operations Manager for Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse presented the report

The Farm and Workhouse had opened for February half term with a "Spring Cleaning" event, through the week there were 936 visitors which was slightly lower than previous years but was potentially due to the poor weather.

The main season had begun with a "Welcome to the workhouse" event, this involved all those who were involved with the Voices from the workhouse project and players of the National Lottery 228 visitors attended.

The first full public day of the new season was mother's day and was supported by the "Women Reaching Women" partnership which attracted 614 visitors.

The "Gressenhall goes wild" event held on Easter Monday had 232 visitors. They wished to grow this event as it was a great way for visitors to explore site
She confirmed all the event days attracted museum pass sales.

The Chairman queried what soroptimists were. Cllr Jermy confirmed they were a Global volunteer movement to change the lives of women and girls and had been present on Mother's Day with the "Women reaching Women" partnership.

Voices from the workhouse. The latter stages of the project was launched on 10th March. Evaluation of the project and spaces used was now being done.

David Blackburn queried if the project had given the opportunity to network with other workhouses.

It was confirmed that Gressenhall had founded a workhouse forum, working with other workhouses in the country who were looking at getting heritage funding. They were not all workhouse buildings but museums that had workhouse collections.

The temporary exhibition was "beer and brewing". The team had worked with local pubs to tell their stories as they moved into community ownership and how they diversified themselves to fit into modern life.

Collaborate programme - An inspiration day had been held in March. This day involved sharing the collections and stories and enabled people to get involved and understand it. Attendees were encouraged to decorate beer mats to show their local pub showcasing them as

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community hubs where people met and socialised and played sports.

Megan Dennis Curator had been to Minnesota to spend time at the Humanities forum in Carleton College. She had worked with students to generate some digital output for the Museum iPads. Using the Darwin programming she had added to the project and the workhouse were looking to expand this.

Councillor Ward queried if the digital output would be available to people on their own devices.

It was confirmed that there was a version visitors could download but currently it was a fixed offer, and the Museum would need to look at funding to update that. At present it was available on museum in house iPads, the Museum could update their devices but not the app.

Councillor Kiddle-Morris asked how the college in Minnesota became involved with creating a 3d model of the Workhouse.

The Operations Manager advised their course tutor was interested in workhouses and houses of industry and it was borne from a like minded dream from both sides to create the workhouse in a digital format.

Three further Autism Anglia Earlybird sessions were booked for the year to allow visitors to explore the site with the projections switched off.

Mother's day had been very successful and the Collections centre saw 81 visitors taking part in their printing activity.

Social media. The Museum was very active on Facebook and Twitter. There was a blog for the Voices from the Workhouse project.

Farmer's foundry engine boiler the Museum was waiting for the result of a funding application to enable the engine to be restored.

Volunteers - over the first three months of 2018 volunteers had contributed over 800 hours on site. During 2017 volunteers gave just over 10,000 hours to the Museum.

The Chairman asked how other workhouses utilised their volunteers. The Operations Manager advised the nearest comparison Workhouse was in Southwell which was run by the National trust that used volunteers. A Workhouse in Wales was run by volunteers.

David Blackburn advised SHARE Museums East, which supported Museum Development in the East of England, worked across the region, and one activity was to support volunteer groups and gave annual awards. Megan Dennis was heavily involved with them. The Chairman believed it was good to recognise volunteers and repeat visitors.

Councillor Ward queried if Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse held an event to recognise volunteers.

The Operations Manager advised that at the end of summer there

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was a social event and the held a “thank you” event at Christmas.

School visits - over the last financial year over 10,600 children had visited the site.

The Learning team were working in partnership with NCC to devise days for different groups.

A discussion was had regarding School visits and the struggle some Schools faced not with the cost of entry to the Museum but the coach to get them to the site. There was a degree of flexibility in the amount of activities each school booked for and free resources were available to teachers to use at the school with no fee. There were travel bursaries available to schools to assist them with the cost of travel.

Visitor numbers of 66021 for the year 2017-2018 had been recorded which was almost 5000 up on the previous year.

It was requested that the visitor figures be attached to the minutes.

15/18 ANCIENT HOUSE MUSEUM OF THETFORD LIFE REPORT

Melissa Hawker presented the report.

Thetford remembers three heritage bids were being looked at for a WW1 then and now project. Thetford Town Council were holding events for Armistice. The aim was for 3000 knitted poppies to be draped on the Guildhall and the knit and natters group were heavily involved. The display would form part of “battles over” a national event with beacon lighting. It was hoped the Museum might be a stop off point for the torch.

Some items would be donated to Norwich Castle for their exhibition and these could highlight Thetford’s role in the war.

Thetford and Punjab festival. A fortnight of activities was planned for Punjab links with Thetford. This would include Cultural Fusion and would see Morris dancing and Bangra dancing performed together. The collection donated from Prince Frederick would be highlighted and the plaque from Prince Frederick which had been in storage would be unveiled.

A funding bid was being worked on which would allow the upstairs room to be changed to a Duleep Singh room. Both the funding bid and subsequent display were being worked in consultation with the Sikh community.

Councillor Duigan queried whether there would be an issue with a Duleep Singh room as Thetford Library already had one and the two sites were very close to each other.

Melissa Hawker advised it actually helped visits. Large groups visiting Thetford could be split and visit both sites.

Teenage history club. The group had asked to do a temporary exhibition. “Pride of the people: helping history out of the closet” the

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club would explore collections and stories and present them in display. They were also creating a queer history tour of Ancient House, picking up objects that had links to queer communities and would use the formula used by guides at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. They were working with comedienne Iszi Lawrence who performed historical comedy, this would culminate in a stand up routine of their own which would be performed in the Autumn.

Learning activities. Discover Tuesday were running where visitors could meet characters and handle objects. May half term theme was to be Tudors. The family trails encourage local people to visit more regularly to do all the different trails.

The Teenage History Club and Mini Museum for the under fives were still popular and the Junior History club were doing a project about suffrage. They had performed a play and would be performing at the Mayor making event.

Volunteers – The Museum was soon to recruit new volunteers to produce resource boxes.

Visitor numbers – It was reported that 2017-2018 had been a strong year with 9654 visitors.

16/18 NEXT MEETING

The details for the next meeting were confirmed.

It was requested that an Agenda Item for September's meeting be for SHARE and David Blackburn would liaise with Councillors Clarke and Duigan to arrange a presentation on their work.

It was requested to be noted that the committee sent its best wishes to Oliver Bone and Robin Hanley for a speedy recovery.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

NORFOLK MUSEUM SERVICE
2016/17 Visitors by Museum and County Total

		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL	
N O R W I C H	Castle Museum	2016-17	18,693	17,197	15,585	18,603	23,545	16,342	20,328	14,042	11,892	14,305	17,873	16,818	18,693	205,223
		2017-18	19,160	16,321	15,070	19,727	31,268	23,469	20,792	15,550	12,831	16,393	16,498	15,181	19,160	222,260
		2018-19	18,477												18,477	18,477
		2016-17	414	422	335	436	309	566	429	404	282	346	401	424	414	4,768
Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)		2017-18	319	331	400	271	258	450	322	337	114	0	232	340	319	3,374
		2018-19	286												286	286
		2016-17	1,124	830	1,504	970	1,441	2,107	1,221	1,021	929	1,174	1,130	820	1,124	14,271
		2017-18	1,008	1,198	1,142	2,598	3,346	2,175	1,074	1,116	485	853	1,423	910	1,008	17,328
Museum of Norwich		2018-19	1,010												1,010	1,010
		2016-17	530	573	1,284	1,012	1,182	1,642	775	665	842	0	371	859	530	9,735
		2017-18	643	746	1,029	2,110	2,598	1,637	610	574	610	12	348	443	643	11,360
		2018-19	670												670	670
Strangers Hall		2016-17	200	641	282	331	693	838	329	180	90	0	21	21	200	3,626
		2017-18	419	757	71	358	1,120	816	315	137	1	66	0	87	419	4,147
		2018-19	562												562	562
		2016-17	1,030	1,325	955	1,122	1,452	1,958	1,117	65	187	0	60	157	1,030	9,428
Elizabethan House Museum		2017-18	1,164	1,557	938	1,304	2,001	1,744	1,381	75	63	32	164	135	1,164	10,558
		2018-19	1,411												1,411	1,411
		2016-17	3,088	3,703	3,842	3,523	3,559	3,106	3,626	2,829	1,362	1,825	3,194	3,422	3,088	37,079
		2017-18	4,101	4,265	3,925	4,587	6,207	5,782	3,283	3,031	1,903	2,342	2,717	3,076	4,101	45,219
Time and Tide		2018-19	3,320												3,320	3,320
		2016-17	1,375	1,541	2,054	1,850	2,429	1,694	1,583	44	91	16	130	1,396	1,375	14,203
		2017-18	1,838	1,530	1,846	2,036	2,464	1,614	1,515	75	57	7	264	1,147	1,838	14,393
		2018-19	1,585												1,585	1,585
Cromer Museum		2016-17	1,018	884	1,235	1,663	986	1,486	1,560	1,271	727	1,110	1,666	1,169	1,018	14,775
		2017-18	624	721	827	1,657	1,497	1,671	2,005	1,270	1,014	1,344	2,137	1,636	624	16,403
		2018-19	960												960	960
		2016-17	974	719	683	671	1,261	613	853	1,459	528	553	876	1,219	974	10,409
Ancient House Museum		2017-18	919	737	763	1,038	959	1,095	798	797	620	573	737	618	919	9,654
		2018-19	604												604	604
		2016-17	4,576	7,292	6,147	6,676	12,160	7,331	7,183	1,698	1,275	56	1,776	5,027	4,576	61,197
		2017-18	7,692	7,857	9,115	6,869	12,526	6,433	7,878	1,764	714	73	1,598	3,502	7,692	66,021
Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse		2018-19	5,933												5,933	5,933
		2016-17	39	550	582	1067	115	20	168	159	31	10	98	57	39	2,896
		2017-18	80	456	213	755	295	2,088	71	279	59	0	552	545	80	5,393
		2018-19													0	0
Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA		2015-16	33,061	35,677	34,488	37,924	49,132	37,703	39,172	23,837	18,236	19,395	27,596	31,389	33,061	387,610
		2016-17	37,967	36,476	35,339	43,310	64,539	48,974	40,044	25,005	18,471	21,695	26,670	27,620	37,967	426,110
		2017-18	34,818												34,818	34,818
		TARGET	30,007	30,438	29,576	33,780	48,499	35,985	33,774	19,849	14,950	16,626	22,115	24,497	30,007	340,095