

Meeting of Members of March & District Museum Society and Representatives of March Town Council held at March Museum at 7.30pm Monday 22nd November 2021.

MINUTES

1. Attendance.

Gordon Thorpe (Chairman)
Linda Gill
John Gowing

Councillor Ray Jack
Councillor Ruth Johnson
Councillor Mark Purser
Clive Lemmon (Town Clerk)

2. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising.

- a) Due to the Covid 19 epidemic, the Museum's activities had been seriously curtailed during 2020 but momentum had started to increase again during 2021.
- b) Maintenance work is ongoing to ensure that the Museum, a listed building, is kept in first-class order.
- c) The Museum and Council financial years have different end dates, the Museum being 30th September and the Council being 31st March. It was noted that within the Council financial year, the Museum had currently drawn down £620.00p of their "repairs and renewals" grant. This leaves a balance of £5,380.00p available to claim prior to 31st March 2021.
- d) It had previously been ascertained that Cambridgeshire County Council owns the trees outside the Museum (lorry park side), and it was noted that a planning application had been lodged by them on 15th October 2021 (F/YR21/1220/TRCA) to undertake remedial works thereto.
- e) The museum lease has now been extended by March Town Council to 13th May 2042. It was agreed that the museum should request a further extension in 2035.
- f) Following receipt of a letter from Zurich Municipal, CL suggested that the Museum should get an up-to-date valuation of the premises. This would need to reflect the full cost of reinstatement following a total loss. In addition to labour and materials this should include all associated costs such as demolition, debris removal, planning and professional fees. The current insurance value is c£741,000. If such a valuation is undertaken, a copy of the results thereof should be forwarded to CL so that he could advise Zurich accordingly.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman formally welcomed the Council representatives and thanked them for their continued support.

The written Chairman's Report of November 2021, which contained details of the previous year's activities, and various other information sheets (including the May 2021 Newsletter), were presented to the meeting (See Appendix 1).

The Chairman also extended thanks to the Museum Committee and volunteers.

6. Treasurer's Report.

The Chairman presented the Treasurer's Report and latest set of accounts and these are attached to the minutes as Appendix 2.

The fixed grant requested from March Town Council for the forthcoming year was £10,500.00p and the request for commitment to repairs and renewals was £6,000.00p.

The requested £500.00p increase in fixed grant would be the first rise since 2018/19.

The Town Clerk notified the Committee that he would advise them of the Council's decision as soon as the Council's budgets had been finalised.

7. Any Other Business.

- a) Maintenance has been ongoing throughout the year and, as with all old listed buildings, there can be no foreseeable end in sight.
- b) The Councillors present and the Town Clerk, on behalf of March Town Council, thanked the Museum Committee for all their continued efforts, enthusiasm and professionalism, and wished them every success for the future. They also commended the Chairman, Treasurer and all other Officers and volunteers for continuing to take the Museum forward in an extremely positive manner and providing an undoubted asset for the town.
- c) It was hoped by all persons present that 2022 would eventually see the demise of Covid 19 and a return to full normality.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Monday 28th November 2022 at the Museum at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.