

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Museum Committee held at Daventry Town Council, 3 New Street, Daventry, NN11 4BT on Monday 23rd October 2023 at 18:30hrs

PRESENT: Lynn Jones – Chair

Councillors:

Mike Arnold
Ted Nicholl
Phillip Silk-Neilsen
Lynne Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Jewell – Chief Officer (CO)
Sophie Good - Development & Liaison Officer (DLO)
Rod Viveash – Volunteer Museum Curator (VMC)

1 Member of the public
0 Members of the Press

OPEN FORUM

None.

M72.1. APOLOGIES

Councillor	Apologies	Resolved
Dawn Branigan	Received and considered	Apologies approved

M72.2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

M72.3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:	That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 th April 2023 (Appendix 1) and 22 nd May 2023 (Appendix 2) be approved and signed as a correct record.
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M72.4. MUSEUM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- (i) Members reviewed the Forward Plan and noted no actions required.

RECOMMENDATION:	That the Forward Plan be recommended for approval at the next Town Council meeting.
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M72.5. COMMITTEE BUDGET

- i) Members reviewed and noted the income and expenditure report (Appendix 3).
- ii) Members reviewed and noted donations report. (Appendix 4).
- iii) Members considered the draft budget for 2024/25 (Appendix 5). Cllr Nicholl asked if the DLO anticipated a shortfall in any of the budget lines for 2023/2024. Cllr Taylor suggested that the proposed increase was a modest amount, and it was

RESOLVED:	That the draft budget (Appendix 5) be submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee for consideration in the Council budget 24/25.
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M72.6. TREASURE CASE – POST-MEDIEVAL SILVER GILT FINGER RING.

The DLO spoke to her report and advised members that a silver gilt finger ring of post-Medieval date, found in Catesby, was being offered to the museum at the purchase price of £500. Members reviewed the report and were supportive of the proposed acquisition. Cllr Silk-Neilsen highlighted that the ring was 26mm in diameter and a good size. Cllr Arnold suggested the ring would have been worn over a glove during the post-Medieval era, hence the large size. It was

RESOLVED:	That the purchase of the post-Medieval silver gilt finger ring approved. (Appendix 6)
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M72.7. NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME – PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME AND TREASURE OBJECTS

The DLO advised members of a treasure loan request from Northampton Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG) for a series of temporary exhibitions about archaeological finds in Northamptonshire. The DLO advised members that exhibitions will be displaying in 4 local libraries; Towcester, Brackley, Daventry and Weston Favell, sharing objects and their stories to extend the Museums' reach with the wider community. The treasure items being offered from Daventry Museum's collection were the Roman Gold pendant and chain found in Byfield, a Quarter cut silver denarius found in Kilsby, and a Medieval Gold Annular Ave Maria Brooch found in Ashby St Ledgers. Cllr Taylor asked if NMAG would take responsibility for the items. The DLO confirmed NMAG would collect and care for the items for the duration of the exhibition and had provided all necessary documents, evidencing due regard for the security of the items and mitigation of any risk. It was

RESOLVED:	That approval be given for the loan of the following items for the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery Library Exhibitions Programme being held December 2023-April 2024: Roman Gold pendant and chain, Quarter cut silver denarius, Medieval Gold Annular Ave Maria Brooch.
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M72.8. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Members reviewed and noted the acquisitions report (Appendix 7) and Cllr Silk-Neilsen queried the acquisition of roof tiles from 3 New Street dated 2013. The VMC explained that the tiles were from the original building, which became the museum in 2013. Cllr Silk-Neilsen also queried the acquisition of the Ginger Beer Bottle, the VMC explained it was of antique age and from a Daventry and Northampton Brewery.

M72.9. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARD – DAVENTRY MUSEUM AWARDED HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR 'BOROUGH HILL AND ITS HISTORY' EXHIBITION.

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 8) and advised members of the Highly Commended Award received at the Northamptonshire Heritage for the museum's 'Borough Hill and its History' exhibition. Members commended staff and volunteers for their hard work and congratulated them for achieving the award.

M72.10. HERITAGE OPEN DAY – 'CREATIVITY UNWRAPPED' EVENT

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 9) and advised members of the museum's successful Heritage Open Days (HOD) 'Creativity Unwrapped' event, whereby local creatives and crafters demonstrated their skills to inspire the museum's visitors. The DLO advised members that the museum's pen pals at Caring Kindergarten's were invited to create artwork for the event, and produced a 3D art project inspired by the Nina Cashmore prints on display in the museum. The family-friendly event attracted 200 visitors to the museum. Members commended staff and volunteers for organising a successful event.



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M72.11. MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 10) and highlighted to members the current ‘Made in Daventry and its Surrounds’ exhibition was to be followed in January 2024 by a World War Two exhibition inspired by the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. The DLO advised members of school displays in the museum and an upcoming Remembrance display in November 2023. Cllr Taylor commented on how many larger museums would be envious of how the museum engages with schools and young people.

M72.12. MUSEUM ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 11) highlighting to members of the numerous school visits that had taken place so far this year. The DLO also informed members that the museum supported offered work experience opportunities having accommodated a placement in July and October 2023. The DLO concluded with details of increasing visitor figures and gave examples of visitor feedback, including those from children. Members noted the report.

M72.13. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Presentation of thank you letters from Monksmoor Park CE Primary School. Members viewed Childrens’ thank you letters with pictures from their visit to the ‘Borough Hill and its History’ exhibition. Members commented how delightful it was to receive the letters of thanks and acknowledged the work being done by staff and volunteers’ engaging with schools.

- (ii) Donation letter from member of public who made their first visit to the museum in June 2023 and viewed the ‘Borough Hill and its History’ exhibition. The member of the public remarked on how well the museum’s space was used to display the museum’s artefacts and exhibits. Members commented how pleasing it was to receive such complimentary letters together with a generous donation. They noted how visitors recognised the work done by both staff and volunteers’ in making the museum an engaging space for visitors.

M72.14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th April 2024

Meeting closed at 19:00.

Signed *H. Jones* Date *22/04/2024*