

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Museum Committee held at Daventry Town Council, 3 New Street, Daventry, NN11 4BT on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 18:30hrs

PRESENT: Lynn Jones – Chair

Councillors:
Mike Arnold
Dawn Branigan
Ted Nicholl
Phillip Silk-Neilsen
Lynne Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Fox – Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
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.

M73.1. APOLOGIES

None.

M73.2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

M73.3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:	That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd October 2023 (Appendix 1) be approved and signed as a correct record.
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M73.4. COMMITTEE BUDGET

- i) Members reviewed and noted the income and expenditure report. (Appendix 2).
- ii) The DCO advised members that the full insurance claim for the water damaged museum cabinet, ceiling tiles and wall, had been received.
- iii) Members reviewed and noted the donations report. (Appendix 3).

M73.5. TREASURE CASES

- i) The DLO spoke to her report and advised members that an early Medieval silver hooked tag dating from the tenth to early eleventh century, found in Dodford, was being offered to the museum at the purchase price of £230. Members reviewed the report and were supportive of the proposed acquisition. It was

RESOLVED:	That the purchase of the early Medieval silver hooked tag be approved. (Appendix 4)
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- ii) The DLO spoke to her report (Appendix 4) and advised members that the post-Medieval silver gilt finger ring, previously approved for purchase via the treasure process (M72.6), had been received. The DLO further advised that the finder of the ring had waived their fee, and that the finder will be invited to view the ring and thanked for their gesture. The DLO confirmed that the ring will go on display at the end of May/early June. Members noted the report.

M73.6. BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2024

The DLO spoke to her report (Appendix 5) and advised members of a very successful event to mark British Science Week 2024. The DLO advised members that over 260 visitors attended, and children took part in completing activity packs which were handed in to be in for a chance of winning a prize. The DLO further advised that Cllr Nicholl, as Mayor of Daventry, presented winners with their prizes. The DLO added that once again the museum had partnered with Cummins who brought a popular robotics activity with them. The DLO thanked the staff, councillors and volunteers who supported the event. Members noted the report and congratulated the team for a successful event.

M73.7. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Members reviewed the acquisitions report (Appendix 6) and the DLO advised that the museum was currently inundated with items being donated and that although collecting items is one of the museum's main aims, it is also important that the current collection is looked after, and proper records maintained. The DLO spoke to her report and advised that a temporary hold on collecting items would allow staff and volunteers to process outstanding accessions to ensure good management of the collection. The DLO added that exceptions would be made, decided by the DLO in consultation with the VMC, for any item received that was of significant relevance to Daventry. It was

RESOLVED:	That a temporary hold on collecting items be approved, with the exception of any item of significant relevance to Daventry, which would be decided by the DLO in consultation with the VMC. (Appendix 6)
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M73.8. MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 7) and highlighted to members the current World War Two: D-Day 80 Years On exhibition continues to be well received by visitors. The DLO advised members that two other heritage sites, Northampton Museums and Art Gallery and Weedon Ordnance Depot Visitor Centre visited the museum and commended the displays. The DLO confirmed to members that work on the next exhibition, Daventry Retail Through the Ages, was underway. The DLO advised members of a new upcoming display, replacing the Falconer's Hill Academy display in the entrance hallway, entitled Endangered and Extinct. The DLO advised members that the new art display would be created using recycled materials. Members noted the report.

M73.9. MUSEUM ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The DLO spoke to her report (appendix 8) and advised members that last year the museum had 3 work experience student placements and is due to have another this July. The DLO highlighted the numerous school visits that had taken place so far this year and the positive feedback received via the visitor comments book and via school visit evaluation forms. The DLO advised members of two new volunteers who had joined, bringing new skills and expertise to the volunteer team. The DLO spoke to her report and commented on successful end of year visitor figures and current visitor figures. The DLO concluded with examples of visitor feedback, including those from children. Members noted the report.

M73.10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) The DLO advised members of a card received from the museum’s pen-pals at Caring Kindergarten’s to mark Friendship week. Members noted the correspondence.

M73.11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

To be agreed and approved at the Town Council meeting on 20th May 2024.

Meeting closed at 18:50.

Signed Date

For Approval