

Notice of Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee



Date: Monday, 3 June 2024 at 2.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chairman: To be elected

Vice Chairman: To be elected

Cllr A Martin
Cllr L Northover
Stuart Bartholomew

Cllr L Williams
Mr G Irvine
Ms F Winrow

Sir George Meyrick Baronet
Mr A Frost

All Members of the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5893>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Rebekah Rhodes or email rebekah.rhodes@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

23 May 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Election of Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee

To elect a Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2024-25.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2024-25.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from Councilors.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

6. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday Tuesday 28 May.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Friday 31 May.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

7. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Update Report

The Russell-Cotes has had a very strong 6 months in terms of visitor numbers (up 9%) and income from admissions and secondary spend (up 10%), despite 4 weeks of closure for MEND building works in January. This is due to popular exhibitions, a good Christmas offer, successful marketing and additional press coverage as well as poor spring weather. This represents the highest annual visitor figures (53,231) since charging was introduced and contrasts with national statistics which continue to show that most museums have still not recovered fully from Covid.

The resilience of the building to weather damage, vandalism and theft is compromised by the poor state of repair. Failure to complete works fully or in a timely manner has reduced the capacity to manage this fragile building and puts it at ongoing risk. A new condition Survey outlines £3million of work required in the next 5 years, including £1.3million in the next 18

months. An application for this work has been made to ACE MEND Round 4.

The Museum has had some success with funding from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Bournemouth Civic Society for garden investment, Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant and Art Fund for the purchase of collections items, and Art Fund 'Going Places' for a major museum exhibition partnership for 2025 -2030.

8. Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report

17 - 50

To note the new acquisitions to the Collection (material owned and held in trust by the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum charity in accordance with its charitable objectives) and the loan of material to other institutions (ie public art galleries and museums) and to approve the disposal of items in the Collection which do not meet the Museum's Core Offer in accordance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

9. Update on Progress towards the Russell-Cotes becoming a fully Independent Trust

51 - 56

An agreement for a financial settlement between BCP Council and the potential new corporate trustee of the Russell-Cotes charity was successfully progressed in late 2023 and was formally agreed at a full meeting of BCP Council in February 2024.

Therefore, an application has been made under Section 73 of the Charities Act 2011, to the Charity Commission to repeal Section 57 of the Bournemouth Borough Council Act 1985, enabling the Council to be replaced as sole trustee by a new corporate trustee. The Commission is currently drafting a Scheme for agreement with BCP Council that will provide appropriate governance arrangements for the future trustee, which will then be agreed by DCMS and in due course laid before parliament. The Scheme will amend the archaic provisions in the original indentures, ensure the continued interest of the Council and Meyrick estate and deal with other legal issues as advised by the legal advisers.

Progress is also being made in registering the new Company Limited by Guarantee which will act as the sole trustee in place of the Council and starting to recruit to a Board of Directors.

10. Update on 'Repair and Renewal' Project funded by ACE MEND etc for replacement of environmental plant and machinery, restoration of Conservatory etc

57 - 62

The budget for this ACE MEND funded project to

- replace the environmental plant and machinery.
- repair the conservatory.
- improve drainage.
- increase CCTV security.

has been increased to £1,050,000 (from £974,000) because of higher costs for the conservatory repair. Additional funding has been allocated from the

Museum's restricted reserves.

The replacement of the plant is largely complete and the repair of the conservatory is now underway and everything is on schedule to be completed by 31 March 2025 as required.

11. Policy and procedures for audit and damage and loss

63 - 78

In the light of recent high-profile losses at national museums, the Russell-Cotes is introducing new policies and procedures on audit and damage and loss to reduce risk and demonstrate accountability, in line with best practice in the sector.

[PLEASE NOTE: should the committee wish to discuss the contents of the exempt appendix at appendix 1 then the meeting will be required to go into confidential/exempt session]

12. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the scheduled meeting on Monday 28 October 2024 at 2:00pm

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.