

Notice of Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee



Date: Monday, 2 June 2025 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
Cllr L Williams

Ms F Winrow
Sir George Meyrick Baronet

Mr A Frost
Stuart Bartholomew

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=6162>

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

22 May 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



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. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Election of Chair

To elect a Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2025-26.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2025-26.

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

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 29 January 2025.

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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.bpcouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is Tuesday 27 May 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Friday 30 May the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Thursday 15 May 10 working days before the meeting.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

7. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Update Report (1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025)

This winter 6-month period has seen the highest visitor numbers (23,283) since an admission charge was introduced in 2017, reflecting the popularity of the 'Artists in Purbeck' exhibition. It has generated increased income in admissions, Gift Aid, cafe and shop.

The Museum submitted its latest Accreditation return to the Arts Council England. This sets standards for governance, collections care and user experience and is a requirement for important museum activity such as

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inter-museum loans and grants. The result will be heard in August.

The Russell-Cotes has had considerable success with grant applications including:

- £1,500,817 for building repairs from ACE MEND Round 4 subject to BCP Council approval;
- £30,000 from Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art for a research curator into the tempera revival at the Russell-Cotes;
- £8,000 acquisition grant for prints from the Hallett Prize;

as a partner museum in the £5million 5 year 'Going Places' project funded by Art Fund, National Heritage Lottery Fund and Julia Rausing Trust.

8. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report

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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. Report on the Conclusion of the 'Repair and Renewal' Project funded by Arts Council England (ACE), Museum Estates and Development (MEND) fund Round 1 for the restoration of the conservatory and replacement of services

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The ACE MEND project for urgent repairs of the Russell-Cotes has been successfully concluded with the completion of all planned activity by 31 March 2025 ie:

- Renewal of environmental plant and machinery
- Restoration of conservatory
- Improvements to foul drainage
- Increased CCTV coverage

The total cost was £1,016,221.

Funding was received from:

- £518,000 Arts Council England MEND
- £213,000 CIL
- £213,000 BCP Prudential borrowing
- £33,000 Conservatory fundraising
- £24,221 Reserves

£15,000 Insurance claim on conservatory

10. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Update on Progress to Independence

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The Scheme which agrees the future governance framework for the new

Corporate Trustee of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum has been approved by the Charity Commission and BCP Council under delegated powers. It was passed to the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) in April, together with the Draft Order of State for the publicity and modification phase, before ministerial and parliamentary approval in due course.

RCAGM Sole Trustee Ltd, the new Company Limited by Guarantee, was incorporated on 10 March 2025 and will act as Corporate Trustee in place of BCP Council after Vesting Day. The Company number is 16304062 and 9 Board members have been recruited and regular formal meetings have started.

Due to the extended time frame and higher legal and ICT costs than anticipated, the transition costs have been revised from £119,000 to £145,000. Additional funding to cover these costs has been agreed from reserves. £100,000 will be transferred from these and the NHLF Lottery Grant, which is contributing to the project, to the new Sole Trustee so that it can procure services needed (eg HR, legal and ICT) as well as other operational costs to prepare for vesting day.

11. Extension to the term of office of the Chair of the Russell-Cotes Management Committee

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The Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum (charity Number 306288) is going through a highly complex governance change which was started in 2018 and will require an Order of State through Parliament to complete. Very significant progress has been made, after considerable investment of time and resource from BCP Council, Charity Commission, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England.

The charitable 'Scheme', which allows for the repeal of Section 57 of the Bournemouth Borough Council Act 1985 and updates the original founding documents (from 1908 to 1920), has been agreed by Charity Commission and BCP Council and sent to the Department of Culture Media and Sport for review, ministerial and ultimately parliamentary approval.

Through the prolonged and complex process, which has also involved negotiating a financial package with the Council (agreed in January 2024), Professor Stuart Bartholomew has been the Chair of the Management Committee, to which Cabinet delegate the responsibility for oversight of the charity.

Professor Bartholomew was appointed in 2017 and served for the maximum two terms. In 2022, Cabinet agreed exceptionally to appoint him for a further 3 year term on the basis that the governance change had reached a critical juncture, which was impacted by Covid and heightened by coinciding with the Museum's Centenary.

That further term is due to end in September 2025 and while it had been anticipated that externalisation would be complete on 1 October 2025, there is a strong likelihood that Vesting Day may not be achieved until 1 January 2026 or even 1 April 2026 and therefore the Committee will need to keep functioning in the meantime.

A further limited extension is advised rather than lose Professor Bartholomew's experience and commitment to this complex project and

potentially putting it at risk at this critical moment.

12. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the scheduled meeting on 27 October 2025 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.