

Notice of Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee



Date: Monday, 1 June 2026 at 2.15 pm or at the conclusion of the reconvened meeting whichever is later.

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

Membership:

Chairman: To be elected

Vice Chairman: To be elected

Stuart Bartholomew
Cllr L Williams
Cllr A Martin

Cllr L Northover
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=6534>

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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 May 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

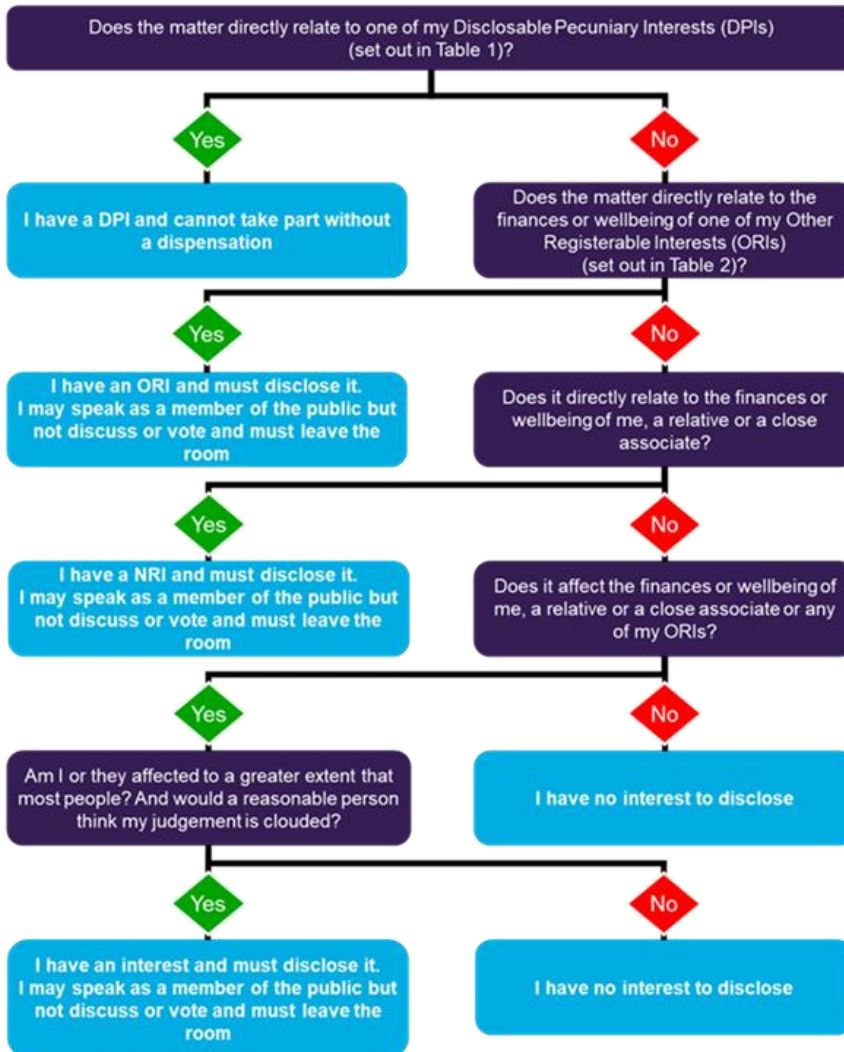


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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

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 2026-27.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee for the municipal year 2026-27.

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

The deadline for the submission of public questions is Tuesday 26 May 2026 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Friday 29 May 2026 the working day before the meeting.

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Update Report 1 October 2025-31 March 2026

This period has seen a maintenance of visitor numbers and visitor income with diverse and engaging public programming across a number of areas.

From October to March, 'Artist as Witness: Impact of War' with its associated legacy catalogue was a thought-provoking and moving exhibition on the impact of war from the First World War to Ukraine. It was accompanied by associated exhibitions about Indian soldiers recuperating in Bournemouth in the First World War and a photographic exhibition documenting the experience of Ukrainian refugees.

Subsequently, the opening of the 'Flower Fairies' exhibition in March 2026 has brought significantly increased visitor numbers.

The café and the shop have performed particularly well.

7. Report on the progress of the 'Repair and Renewal 2' Project funded by Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Estates and Development (MEND) Fund Round 4 15 - 20

The Russell-Cotes has a £1,860,134 project (part funded by ACE MEND 4) to fund major urgent repairs to the Russell-Cotes building, services and interiors.

Conservation architects, Purcell, have been appointed as lead designers and have commenced Stage 4 design work for the building project including significant opening up works in the basement area to better understand the construction, extent of the problems and identify the best course of action. Stage 4 design is expected to be completed by the end of June for the tender process to start later in the summer.

Tenders for the CCTV replacement have been received and are being evaluated.

Design work for fire protection is underway by IDF.

The supporting team of structural engineers, fire specialists and quantity surveyors have been appointed.

Listed building consent has been received subject to the discharge of conditions.

The project is due for completion by November 2027.

8. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals 21 - 60

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. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Update on Progress to Independence 61 - 64

The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) have undertaken significant redrafting of the charitable scheme to update the governance of the Russell-Cotes charity. It is understood from the Charity Commission that the redrafting is nearly complete and that it is realistic to expect the Scheme to be laid before Parliament in September 2026. An update is being sought on a projected Vesting Day.

Three positive meetings have been held since November 2025 between the BCP Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the RCAMG Management Committee/new Sole Trustee about the Council's decision to use the £2.25 million lump sum (originally agreed to fund the new trustee at Vesting day

by Council on 20 February 2024) to fund revenue costs incurred from 1 October 2025 until externalisation takes place. This is likely to reduce the lump sum by c.£600,000 and therefore undermine the future financial viability of the independent charity putting the process of externalisation at risk. However, no agreement has been reached with the CEO on a mutually acceptable solution.

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.