

Windmill Sub-Committee – 20 August 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Windmill Sub-Committee** held on **20 August 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs M J Webster (Chairman)

Cllr A J Humphries

Cllr J M Pullen

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C J Lumley

OFFICERS PRESENT

D Timson - Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
B Broadbent - Principal Officer (Architecture)
M Martin - Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

N Grant - Historical Society
M Hawkins - Historical Society
M Stone - National Trust
Cllr P Weaver - Rayleigh Town Council

23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest by virtue of being Vice-Chairman of the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee.
Cllr J M Pullen also declared a personal interest by virtue of being a member of the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee.

25 UPDATE ON PROJECT PLANNING GRANT BID

The Chairman welcomed the advisers to the meeting. The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of the outcome of the bid submitted in February 2004 to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to develop interpretation of the museum proposal.

Members expressed disappointment in the outcome of the latest bid, particularly in the light of having initially bid for a modest project, which was then further developed on advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Subsequently they advised again that, due to changing financial

circumstances, the scale of the project now needed to be reduced in order for there to be any justification in the HLF supporting the project. Members noted that the Property Maintenance & Highways Manager had written to the HLF requesting advice on the preparation of future bids, but to date no reply had been received.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee advised Members of a letter received from Mark Francois, MP, in which he confirmed he would be happy to host a de-brief meeting, following the unsuccessful outcome of this latest bid, in order that the Council might better understand what it needed to do to improve future chances of funding.

During discussion, Members agreed the importance of raising the level of interest locally in this project, so that residents/businesses are aware of the current difficulties in maximising the value of this building for the community. It was considered opportune, to advise the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership of the outcome of the latest bid.

Members were advised that three local primary schools continue to visit the museum as part of the National Trust Guardianship Scheme, which forms part of their studies for the National Curriculum. This work is supported by voluntary workers at the museum.

During discussion of the suggested options for the future, as outlined in the officer's report, it was noted/agreed:-

- The Council could fund the work that formed the current bid but Members were wary of using additional Council tax money.
- Details of the range of bids that would be needed for refurbishment of the building would be prepared for the next meeting of this Sub-Committee. It was already known that £20,000 would have to be spent next year. Essential preservation work included work on the windows, hood, sails and cap. Conservation approval had already been obtained for the scheme.
- Heating and re-decoration issues could be considered once the building had been made watertight.
- If it were agreed to undertake a thorough refurbishment, then additional funding would need to be provided in next year's Capital programme.
- Contributions could be sought from local people/businesses and the press representative at the meeting was invited to help by publicising this, with the additional possibility of attracting more artefacts.

Resolved

- (1) That the invitation to attend a de-brief meeting with Mark Francois, MP, and a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund be accepted.

Windmill Sub-Committee – 20 August 2004

- (2) That the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, together with the Property Maintenance & Highways Manager, and a representative from both the Historical Society and the National Trust attend this meeting.
- (3) That, following that meeting, a further meeting of the Sub-Committee be arranged:
- to consider a proposed programme of works together with costs and timescales
 - to give more detailed consideration to the publicity which is needed, in order to attract external funding.

The meeting commenced at 10 am and closed at 11.05 am.

Chairman

Date

Note: Since this meeting of the Sub-Committee, a date of 8 September 2004 has been agreed for the de-brief meeting referred to in the first resolution above.