

Windmill Sub-Committee – 4 August 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Windmill Sub-Committee** held on **4 August 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr J M Pullen

OFFICERS PRESENT

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|-------------|---|
| D Timson | - Property Maintenance & Highways Manager |
| B Broadbent | - Principal Officer (Architecture) |
| J Bostock | - Principal Committee Administrator |

ALSO PRESENT

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| N Grant | - Historical Society of Rayleigh |
| M Hawkins | - Historical Society of Rayleigh |
| S Lowy | - Essex Museums Service |
| M Stone | - National Trust |
| Cllr Mrs P Weaver | - Rayleigh Town Council |

39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that the bid to the Arts Council by a local artist for funding to illuminate the exterior of the Windmill for a two-week period had been unsuccessful but that this was only part of various activities associated with the building.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C J Lumley and J M Pullen each declared a personal interest in Rayleigh Windmill by virtue of membership of the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee and of Rayleigh Town Council.

Councillor Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in the Rayleigh Windmill by virtue of being Vice-Chairman of the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee and a Member of Essex County Council.

Town Councillor Mrs P Weaver declared a personal interest in Rayleigh Windmill by virtue of being a member of Rayleigh Town Council.

41 RAYLEIGH WINDMILL

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the progress of the contract, development of the sensory garden, the outcome of some public consultation and developments within the launch strategy.

The Principal Officer (Architecture) provided an update on the latest activity at the Windmill building, including arch rebuilding/pigeon protection works and works to window sills, lead flashings and the gallery extension. All additional works were likely to be finished by the end of the following week. Some brickwork and work on the fantail support had been unforeseen at project commencement. British Telecom had been required to provide a phone line. The additional works had cost in the order of £15,000 and led to an agreed extension of contract of two weeks.

The Sub-Committee concurred with the observation of the Chairman that, in the context of the total project, additional costs had been minimal. It was agreed that floodlighting would be particularly welcomed.

Responding to questions, the Property Maintenance & Highways Manager confirmed that:-

- The possibility of achieving support via the local Barclays Bank “Jigsaw Project” and the Cory Environmental Trust would be investigated.
- Following consultation with the Museums Service, it was proposed that a professional consultant be asked to develop displays if further funding was available from Thames Gateway.
- Given the nature of a recent newspaper article, officers would ensure that forthcoming publicity made it clear that the National Trust was supporting the District Council, the Town Council and the Historical Society in the Windmill scheme, which is a “Partnership” project.
- Items could be displayed both inside and outside the Windmill on the Public Open Day scheduled for 6 September.
- The proposal that Thames Gateway be approached with regard to additional funding of £100,000 was associated with the philosophy of now having greater ambition for the project than that envisaged in original proposals.

It was noted that five individuals had already made approaches to the National Trust expressing an interest in involvement with the Windmill project and that the Historical Society may be able to identify volunteers willing to assist at times when there could be merit in maximising the number of floors that are open to the public. The Property Maintenance & Highways Manager confirmed that officers would further liaise with the National Trust and the Historical Society on this aspect.

There was general discussion on the possibility of allying an official Civic Launch with, say, Christmas Carols or some form of musical event. It was observed that Holmes Place may be amenable to assisting with the provision of accommodation at the Mill building in this regard. The Sub-Committee concurred with the observation of the Chairman that it would be appropriate for the District Council and the Town Council to work together in developing proposals for an official Civic opening in the first instance, and that arrangements should also be made for some form of permanent plaque/display recognising the work of the craftsmen involved in the project.

Members endorsed the suggestion under paragraph 9 of the report that a Management Group be established. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to consider the inclusion of a Town Council representative on such a Group.

It was noted that the local media had expressed an interest in producing an article around the 'finishing' work being undertaken at the Windmill. Members endorsed the suggestion of the Property Maintenance & Highways Manager that a visit be arranged for the Sub-Committee to see the Windmill as it reaches finalisation.

Members thanked officers for all their work on the Windmill project to date. It was agreed that, in terms of the continued overseeing of the restoration and refurbishment and the development of a sensory garden in the adjoining area, it would be appropriate for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to be scheduled towards the end of November.

Recommended to the Community Services Committee:-

- (1) That the District and Town Council work together in developing proposals for a formal Civic opening of the Windmill in December allied to a musical event, such as the singing of Christmas Carols.
- (2) That a bid for additional funding of £100,000 be submitted to Thames Gateway.
- (3) That arrangements be made for the setting up of a Management Group that would have overall control of events and bookings, with the Arts Development Officer or other appointed Council officer acting as facilitator. The Group should include a representative of Rochford District Council, Rayleigh Town Council, the National Trust, the Rayleigh Historical Society and Holmes Place. The Group should meet on a quarterly basis to provide overall management control.
(CD(F&ES))

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The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 11.07am.

Chairman

Date