

WHITBY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **PANNETT ART GALLERY** Committee conducted on **Tuesday 14 December 2021** at 3:00pm in Pannett Art Gallery, Whitby.

Present: Councillors Mrs L Wild (Chair) with Councillors Mrs H Coughlan, R Dalrymple, G Jackson and Mrs N Wilson.

Also: Mrs A Cowey Deputy Clerk, Mrs H Berry Curator, and M King Town Clerk.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

PAG140/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR

MOVED by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Mrs N Wilson

RESOLVED unanimously that Councillor Mrs L Wild is elected Chair for the ensuing year 2021-2022.

PAG141/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for inability to attend.

PAG142/21 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

MOVED by Councillor Mrs N Wilson, seconded by Councillor G Jackson

RESOLVED unanimously that Councillor Mrs H Coughlan is appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing year 2021-2022.

PAG143/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest.

PAG144/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

PAG145/21 TO CONSIDER ACTIONS REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING OF A NEW COUNCIL YEAR.

- a. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on the 25 February 2020.

MOVED by Councillor Mrs N Wilson, seconded by Councillor R Dalrymple

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Pannett Art Gallery Committee held on the 25 February 2020 having been circulated be taken as read and approved as a correct record.

- b. Review of the terms of reference of the Committee.
- c. Review of delegation arrangements to employees
- d. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders, policies and procedures relating to the functions of the Committee.
- e. Review of the anticipated Committee workload for the coming year.

MOVED by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan, seconded by Councillor R Dalrymple

RESOLVED that the above items b - e be taken on block and approved.

PAG146/21 CURATORS REPORT

The Curator went through her report circulated prior to the meeting. Both the Curator and Town Clerk reported on an award of £130,000 from SBC to further develop a business plan for the gallery extension.

MOVED by Councillor G Jackson, seconded by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan

RESOLVED unanimously that the Curators Report is received.

PAG147/21 FINANCE

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2020 – 2021

MOVED by Councillor G Jackson, seconded by Councillor R Dalrymple

RESOLVED unanimously that a more cost-effective credit card system is investigated further.

MOVED by Councillor R Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Mrs N Wilson

RESOLVED that the end of year accounts for 2020 – 2021 as presented to members are approved.

PAYMENT OF CHEQUES

MOVED by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Wild

RESOLVED that the payment of accounts as circulated up to the 13 December 2021 totalling £19,726.22 are approved

PURCHASE OF WORKS OF ART

MOVED by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Mrs N Wilson

RESOLVED unanimously that the following works of art purchased at auction are
Approved: Ballet Study - pencil sketch by Dame Laura Knight
Blacksmith's Forge – watercolour by Albert George Stevens
Haymaking – Watercolour by James William Booth Yorkshire
Farmstead with Ducks – oil on canvas by Sidney Valentine Gardner
Stormy Seas at Staithes – watercolour by Henry Barlow Carter

BEQUESTS

MOVED by Councillor Mrs H Coughlan, seconded by Councillor G Jackson and unanimously

RESOLVED that the following bequests to the Pannett Art Gallery are received:

- Sands a Whitby – watercolour by George Hamilton Constantine Whitby Harbour – Watercolour by Frank Rouse
The above watercolours were bequeathed by Sheila Margaret Lucas of Huddersfield;
- Painting by Nico Jungmann donated by George Bednar - now on display in the Staithes Gallery;
- Unframed watercolour sketch by Frederick Stuart Richardson (staithes Group of Artists) – donated by the artists granddaughter and husband Anne and Manas Bose;
- Pack of three postcards produced as Christmas Cards in their original packaging – Joseph Bagshaw (Staithes Group of Artists) donated by Richard Pottas;
- Cash Bequest of £11,649.63

PAG148/21 SOPER COLLECTION (See Curators report)

MOVED by Councillor R Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor G Jackson

RESOLVED unanimously that the owner of the Soper collection is informed that the Pannett Art Gallery is seriously interested in taking over this collection, and the potential of taking over all or part of the Soper collection is explored further.

PAG149/21 STORAGE

Alteration to the front office to create more storage space for works of art was discussed in full. A grant of £5,000.00 has been awarded to the Town Council towards the cost of carrying out this work.

MOVED by Councillor Mrs N Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Wild

RESOLVED unanimously that it is recommended to Finance, Policy and General Purposes that Whitby Town Council obtains quotations to carry out and complete this work in the New Year.

PAG150/21 ACCREDITATION

It is anticipated that the Pannett Art Gallery will be invited to re-apply for accreditation in 2022.

PAG151/21 EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2022

Pannett Art Gallery Collection	1 Feb – 13 March
Juneau Project – Community creative consultation – exploring the Esk	1 -13 March
Tindale Photography competition	16 March – 1May
CCW exhibition	7 - 12 May
Richard Lees - Printmaker	17 May –10 July
Whitby Art Society	12 July - 21 August
Environmentally themed Open Exhibition	23 Aug - 9 Oct
Fylingdales Group of Artists	11 Oct - 27 Nov

PAG152/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
To be confirmed.

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Pannett Art Gallery Curators Report, December 2021

Temporary Exhibition Programme

Sadly many of the 2020 exhibitions had to be cancelled, or staged on line.

We were not able to deliver the Pannett Centenary exhibition and associated activities, but we were able to keep some of the Laura Knight work on loan throughout 2021 so our visitors 2021 visitors had the opportunity to enjoy these.

We displayed works from our collection in the limited time we were able to open, until October, when we started to show the beautiful botanical prints from the Captain Cook Museum. These hadn't been on display for long before we went into lockdown again so we kept these prints on the walls to start our 2021 exhibition programme. For this year I programmed fewer but longer exhibitions so that they each had some chance of taking place. We started the year on part time hours, monitoring visitor numbers and taking track and trace details. This, along with the greatly enhanced cleaning regime, was quite demanding for the front of house staff, but they did well keeping the building operating efficiently and our visitors safe. We have had good sales of artworks in 2021.

The programme for 2022 is:

Pannett Art Gallery Collection	1 Feb – 13 March
Juneau Project – Community creative consultation – exploring the Esk	1 -13 March
Tindale Photography competition	16 March – 1May
CCW exhibition	7 - 12 May
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Ro-opening safely

To enable the gallery to re-open after the first lockdown we secured a small grant to cover much of the costs of installing acrylic screens at the reception desk and in the front office. The latter was necessary to enable us to take visitor details for the government Track and Trace programme. It also helped to cover the cost of the information banner, sanitiser dispenser, notice holders etc.

When we closed again for second and third lockdown, we secured a larger grant that enabled us to install touch free, automatic, sliding glass doors at the front entrance. This has the additional benefit of removing the difficult to open heavy wooden doors, and improves psychological access to the building as visitors can see where they are going in to. The design on the door is taken from one of the paintings in our Staithes Group collection. This involved a great deal of detective work to track down the descendants, and therefore copyright owners, of the artwork.

At the same time, we had the entrance foyer replastered and redecorated to improve the general appearance of this space.

Town Deal - Pannett Extension

Throughout 2020/21 we worked towards including the development of the Pannett Art Gallery through the Whitby Town Deal scheme. This was an incredibly time-consuming process, so it was extremely disappointing that, despite being ranked highly in the process, at the very final stage we were dropped from the scheme due to lack of funding. We have continued to pursue other avenues of funding, including applying to the Community Renewal Fund. We are now waiting to hear whether or not we have funding from SBC for the next development stage of this initiative.

Acquisitions

Responding to the opportunity to purchase some lovely paintings which came up for sale at Duggleby's Auction House over the last couple of years, we have added to our collection by purchasing:

10.11.2020

Ballet study – pencil sketch by Dame Laura Knight RA (Staithes Group 1877-1970)

18.6.2021

The Blacksmith's Forge - watercolour by Albert George Stevens (Staithes Group 1863-1925)

Haymaking - watercolour by James William Booth (Staithes Group 1867-1953)

Yorkshire Farmstead with Ducks - oil on canvas board by Sidney Valentine Gardner (Staithes Group 1869-1957)

Stormy Seas at Staithes - watercolour with scratching out by Henry Barlow Carter (British 1804-1868)

In June 2020 we received a bequest of two beautiful watercolour paintings, by a Mrs Sheila Margaret Lucas of Huddersfield. These are The Sands at Whitby by George Hamilton Constantine, and Whitby Harbour by Frank Rouse.

In March 2021 we received a wonderful gift of a painting by Nico Jungmann a Staithes Colony 'heyday' artists. This beautiful painting, donated by Mr George Bednar, is now on display in the Staithes Artists gallery.

In September 2021 we were given an unframed watercolour sketch of Whitby, by Frederick Stuart Richardson (Staithes Group). This was a gift from the artists granddaughter and husband, Anne and Manas Bose.

Last week (December 2021) we received a pack containing three postcards that had been produced as Christmas Cards, in their original packaging. The designs were by the Staithes Group artist Joseph Bagshawe. These were a gift from Richard Pottas.

In May 2020 we also received a cash bequest of £11,649.63.

Soper Collection

In May 2021 we were contacted by representatives of the Soper Collection about the possibility of us taking over an amazing resource of over 600 beautiful artworks.

<https://www.thesopercollection.org/> The Art Fund had suggested our gallery as a suitable venue for these works.

We expressed a tentative interest but were led to understand that a more local gallery to the collection was going to take over the care of these works.

In October we were again contacted by the Soper Collection as it was looking less likely that the gallery they had been talking to, was going to be able to take over the entire collection. In early November I visited the collection which is based in Suffolk and again expressed our interest in taking over the care of this collection. **We need to have a formal agreement from the Committee** to be able to take this further – whether this is the entire collection or part of it.

If we are to take over this collection, we would need to significantly increase our storage space, agree to have some works on display, and make the collection widely available for the benefit of the public (much as we do with our existing collection). We are investigating creating a new storage facility above the front office, opposite the Town Council store. We have been offered a grant of £5,000 from SBC towards the cost of creating new gallery storage. However, we will still need to contribute a significant amount from our own budgets. The SBC grant has to be spent by March and it would make sense to carry out building work in January. **An agreement on this additional expenditure is required.**

Staithe Stories

Our National Lottery Heritage Fund project continued throughout 2020 and much of 2021. This was a great success, please see the final evaluation report for full details. We were chosen at random to be audited by NLHF, which added greatly to the final administration of this, but as far as the National Lottery is concerned it has all been completed and signed off now. We do have some final tasks to complete and continue to work on this project and to collect stories when possible.

Community Involvement

In addition to the Staithe Stories project we have worked with other community groups and projects wherever possible including:

- A series of videos for an on-line Fish and Ships festival in partnership with SBC

- An online exhibition with the National Literacy Trust

- An online video project Impermanent Edge by artist Helen Goodwin, highlighting Coastal Erosion

- Supporting and assisting Invisible Dust and Juneau Projects with the community engagement elements of their Esk Estuary project

- Hosting the Disablement Action Group weekly craft sessions in our gallery.

I have attended the Whitby Community Alliance on-line meetings and where possible have supported their projects and activities to support clients throughout the various lockdowns

We have secured coverage in the Whitby Gazette of exhibitions, events and activities wherever possible.

Training

I have taken the opportunity to attend many online training courses and events, covering a diverse range of subject, from Collections Care, Innovation Processes, Digital Marketing, Health and Wellbeing, Front of House skills, Funding, and many sessions about the various Covid rules and guidelines.