

Armstrong Hall Advisory Committee

Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 5 June 2019

Present: Barbara Ray - Chair (Thornbury Picture House and Thornbury Arts Group)
Rex Davis (Thornbury Horticultural Society)
Jill Dimond (TMTG)
Cllr Clive Parkinson (Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust)
Andrew Sherriff (Thornbury Art Club)
Hazel Dutton (Severnvale Flower Club)
Malcolm Tait (U3A)
Louise Powell (Hall Manager/Town Clerk – Thornbury Town Council)

1. Apologies for absence

Gill Dunkley (Thornbury Arts Festival)
Cllr Shirley Holloway (Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust)
Ellie McDonald (NYTC)

2. To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year

Barbara Ray was nominated and unanimously voted in as the Chairman again for the forthcoming year.

3. To appoint representatives to the Management Committee

Barbara Ray and Gill Dunkley were nominated again and unanimously voted for as representatives to the Armstrong Hall Management Committee.

4. To provide an update from the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Working Group

Cllr Clive Parkinson provided an update. He explained that the Trust and the Clerk had taken stock of the resources that were required to move the project forward at a faster pace and realised that the Clerk role had grown to an extent where the priority was the statutory responsibilities and to move forward the Hall redevelopment project at the speed required, we would need additional resources. The Trust had therefore agreed to hire a Hall Project Manager who would take on the redevelopment project and also the day to day management of the existing Hall. Interviews had been held and an appointment had been made. Steve Nugent has worked for many years as a project manager in construction projects for the NHS and education arenas. He would be attending the Redevelopment Working Group the next day and would be starting in mid-July.

Clive also updated the group on progress that had taken place. The Hall Manager and Clive had attended a pre-planning application with South Gloucestershire Council and our consultants. Overall the meeting was very positive, and they were pleased with the general proposed purpose of the site. They made comments on the design and the proximity to other buildings and felt there was some work to do on the transport issues but were very positive on most aspects of the scheme.

We asked their thoughts on Miss Saise's cottage and they confirmed that this would not be an appropriate location for the entrance to the site due to the spill onto the High Street.

A user enquired whether Steve was replacing Adam and it was confirmed this is definitely not the case. The day to day management of staff and events would continue to be managed by the Hall Supervisor.

5. To receive an update on any hall operational issues that affect users

The Hall Manager reported that a new Caretaker Steve Nash had recently started.

6. Representatives reports and queries

Severnvale Flower Club reported that their recent meeting had attracted about 150 people and it had been very good. It was stated that Steve Nash had been very helpful, and they couldn't fault him, he was a welcome addition.

TMTG had nothing to report

U3A stated that the travel and tourism and architecture groups had found Adam very helpful and useful. They said they did find that the heating was an issue and was either too hot or too cold. It was stated that the retention of the Cossham Hall was very important to their members in the new development.

Thornbury Horticultural Society said the March flower show had gone very well and Adam and all the staff had been excellent.

Art Club stated that their regular monthly meeting had to change in May due to the Arts Festival but generally when they meet, they have 40-50 people in the Cossham Hall and they are perfectly happy.

Thornbury Picture House reported that they were struggling with the very bright emergency light by the door. They understand it does need to comply however wondered if this could be reviewed for the new build, to see if there was a different level for theatres?

Barbara Ray updated on forthcoming fundraising events that were due to take place.

7. Any other business

Hazel Dutton said she was grateful that the time of the meeting had been changed so she was able to attend.

8. Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 25 September 2019, 3.30pm at the Town Hall.