

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of the Robert Owen Memorial Museum, held on Friday May 19th, 2023.

PRESENT: Rex Shayler (Chair), Norman Davies, Ann Evans, Janet Lewis, Dewi Hughes, Anne Grieve, Sarah Sandford, Andy Newham, Colin Laker. David Smith and Penelope Harris attended via online facility.

APOLOGIES: none notified.

The **MINUTES** of the 2022 AGM were agreed as a true record; there were no **MATTERS ARISING** from those minutes.

- 1. Election of Council of Management:** Nominations had been received from Ann Evans, Dewi Hughes, Rex Shayler, David Smith and Norman Davies. The Secretary confirmed that all forms had been completed correctly. Dewi proposed that the nominations be accepted *en bloc* – this was unanimously agreed.
- 2. Confirmation of Officers:** The Officers were confirmed as
CHAIR: Rex Shayler
CURATOR: Colin Laker
TREASURER: Norman Davies
SECRETARY: Sarah Sandford
MUSEUM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Anne Grieve
LIBRARIAN: Dewi Hughes
and approved by the meeting.
- 3. Chair's Report:**
Rex reported on the development of digital display in the Museum – the Allsop display, plus others in the pipeline. Electrical points had been installed for the New Lanark and New Harmony display tablets; an additional tablet would be used for the existing key display.
There had been a large school visit on Monday, ten groups of 11/12 Year 7s, and there was an additional group on Tuesday, all of which went very well.
Rex continued to explore the possibility of new volunteer officers, as we still had posts that had not been filled.
Norman proposed the formal recognition of the Chair's report, which was agreed.
- 4. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report:**
Norman had circulated the full accounts and they were available on the Museum website. He drew attention to the number of grants we had received, including the RO250 grant, one tranche of which was yet to be paid to the designer.
Norman also outlined the Museum's input into the Heritage Lottery bid for the transformation of Sarah Briscoe House, in partnership with the Trust and Newtown Town Council. Access to the building and the construction of a lift were key elements, but the Museum contribution was the heart of the heritage element.

Match funding from the Welsh Architectural Council had been gained for the application.

The financial situation for the Museum was generally very good due to the Covid grants, though long-term income was comparatively low compared to spending as we were largely grant-dependent. Examination of a Friends Scheme was a priority for the future. Nevertheless, reasonable funds were currently available for developments in the Museum.

Dewi proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and asked about the savings account. Norman confirmed that he has kept this under review, but no account had yet emerged to fulfil all our requirements. David also thanked Norman for his efforts over the year and suggested an Appeal to Co-operators in the run-up to Christmas.

5. Curator's Report:

Colin reported on the new display on the Almanack given as a gift to Thomas Allsop's daughter in 1850 and inscribed by Owen, which the Museum had acquired.

He also outlined progress in the RO250 project in terms of the new, fully bilingual, display boards. He was able to show a real-size example of the text, illustration and colour design, which received general approval. All text had now been proofed by himself and Dewi and was back with the designer. The next stage would be the manufacture and installation of the boards, which would hopefully be over the summer, though that was dependent upon manufacturers and installers, who were being managed by the designers, JPDS.

6. Any Other Business:

Dewi had been liaising with Emma Benyon over a bilingual creative writing and education project, also linked with the Textile Museum and Oriel Davies. He suggested a possible meeting of all parties in late May to arrange logistics for the project in June.

7. **Date of next AGM** – March 2024

8. **Date of next COM** – to be confirmed