

GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2023

Present: Councillors
M Lewis, Mackie, Robson, Shimmin, John, Birch, Simmonds,
Andrews, Colbran, G Jones, W Lewis and Winstanley

1 : TO ELECT THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL
YEAR 2023/24.

Cllr Norma Mackie was elected as Chairperson for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

Cllr Carol Andrews was elected as Vice Chairperson for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

2 : TO NOTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT
COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24.

Noted.

3 : TO NOTE THE JOINT AGREEMENT/TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL
YEAR 2023/24.

Noted.

4 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bob Harris and Keith Jones.

5 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

6 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

7 : REPORT OF THE GLAMORGAN ARCHIVIST FOR THE PERIOD 1ST
MARCH TO 31ST MAY 2023

Members were provided with a comprehensive update on the work of the service for the period 1 March 2023 – 31 May 2023 all categorised against the outcomes of the Annual Plan.

The Archivist summarised that, it had been another busy quarter for the archive service. It had been particularly pleasing to get the Research Guide project properly underway, and to get the procurement of the digital preservation repository complete. Both of these projects will help the service make considerable progress in different areas.

There are a number of other different projects underway, both within the service and with partners, and it was pleasing to be able to continue to report on that work and the fact that the Archives is still the partner-of-choice for a range of organisations.

The different aspects of managing the building continue to be challenging as different works continue to be balanced out according to available funds.

The Chairperson thanked the Archivist for her work on the report and invited questions from the Joint Committee Members.

Members were pleased to have seen the Glamorgan Blood exhibition in local libraries and hubs.

A discussion took place around Black History Month, Windrush 75th anniversary and the Welsh Government Anti Racism campaigns. It was noted that St Fagans are gathering information relating to the Windrush 75th anniversary but do not have any photographs or documents. Members asked if the Archives had been in touch or could help them. Rhian Diggins that Race Council Cymru are a project partner, and this is something that could be looked into. It was suggested that the Butetown Arts and Heritage collection may have some relevant information.

Members noted that next year is the 40th anniversary of the Miners' Strike and asked if there was anything planned for this. The Archivist said there was nothing planned as yet, but they will look into this, the Archives will always look to do something on social media. Members noted the historical importance of the Strikes across the whole of the UK and that there may be an opportunity to work with other Archives services, such as in Yorkshire, and this may also provide an opportunity for funding.

RESOLVED: to note the Report of the Glamorgan Archivist for the period 1st March to 31st May 2023

8 : GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Members received a comprehensive outline of the Annual Report 2022.

Members were advised that a Welsh language version would be produced once the English text had been agreed.

The Chairperson thanked the Archivist and all staff for the great work they have undertaken over the last year.

RESOLVED: to note the Glamorgan Archives Annual Report 2022.

9 : GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT COMMITTEE - 2022/23 OUTTURN REPORT

Members were provided with a comprehensive outline of the report and all its key headings, after which the chairperson invited questions and comments on the report.

The Chairperson thanked officers for their work on the report and invited questions from Joint Committee Members.

Members referred to the money going into the General Reserves and asked if this could have been spent on anything else, such as to offset savings etc. as Members were concerned that there could be a position in the future once again, when there are huge reserves. Members were advised that next year, there is a budgeted draw down of £65k from reserves, so Officers considered it was better to have the reserves in a healthy position now. The current climate is still volatile with regards to utility costs etc., so having this reserve now will mean it's less likely that Local Authorities will be asked for additional contributions. The Archivist added that it was also important to bear in mind that there may be unexpected costs with the building, such as refilling the gas cylinders, so it was better to have a healthy reserve just in case.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the outturn position for 2022/23.
2. To agree that the draft Audit Wales Annual Return for 2022/23 be noted and signed.

10 : DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Proposed dates of forthcoming meetings.

22 September 2023 – 2pm
15 December 2023 – 2pm
22 March 2024 – 2pm
14 June 2024 – 2pm
20 September 2024 – 2pm
13 December 2024 – 2pm

A discussion took place around meetings being online and Members having a visit/tour of the Archives. Members agreed that most meetings would remain online, but there would be an opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting which could be incorporated with a visit/tour of the Archives building, possibly in September or December this year.

The meeting terminated at 3.00 pm

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