



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **West Glamorgan Archives Committee**

Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, Swansea

Friday, 14 June 2019 at 11.00 am

Present:

Councillor(s) - Swansea

L S Gibbard

L R Jones

R V Smith

Councillor(s) – Neath Port Talbot

W F Griffiths

R Mizen

P A Rees

H N James

Associated Organisations

A Dulley

Diocese of Swansea & Brecon

J Watkins

Neath Antiquarian Society

Officer(s)

G Borsden

Democratic Services Officer

K Collis

County Archivist

C Griffiths

Head of Legal - NPT

Apologies for Absence

Councillors A Aubrey, P M Black and M Durke and D B Lewis, Dr L Miskell, W John and T McNulty

1 Election of Vice Chairs for the Municipal Year 2019-2020.

Resolved that Councillors R V Smith and P A Rees be elected Vice Chairs of the Committee for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year.

Councillor R V Smith (Vice Chair) presided

2 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by both Authorities, no interests were declared.

3 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the West Glamorgan Archives Committee meeting held on 15 March 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor W F Griffiths to the list of apologies.

4 Report of the County Archivist.

The County Archivist presented a report which outlined the work of the Joint Archive Service during the period March – May 2019.

Use of the Service

He reported on the use of the Service for the quarter and also referred to the comparison of statistics for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and detailed the background and rationale behind the statistics.

He expressed hope that the figures seemed to have stabilised now after a period of change brought about by reductions in service in both Swansea and Neath over the past few years.

The vast amount of material that is available online now has also impacted on visitor numbers, although engagement with the public has increased due to the use of social media.

Service Outreach

The County Archivist reported that the exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of Swansea being awarded city status had been completed and was currently on display outside the Archives search room in the civic centre. It would be displayed at the Air Show in July and was available for display in venues across the City.

He indicated the progress made on the book "A new, even better Abertawe: the rebuilding of Swansea 1941-1961". It was currently at the proof reading stage and would hopefully be launched at an event during the autumn.

He detailed the sessions delivered to schools and students from Swansea University during the quarter.

Discussion took place around the promotion of the service to schools, which included education sessions on a variety of curriculum-related topics, loan of portable exhibitions and the provision of CDs for a locality study. Where members were involved with their local schools, they were urged to help promote the service, which was underused. The County Archivist indicated that those schools which did use the service regularly returned for more sessions and to judge from the feedback received were very satisfied with them.

He reported that the Archive Service annual report for 2018/19 had recently been published online.

Professional Meetings & Partnership Working

He reported on the various meetings attended by staff during the quarter.

Archive Collections

He reported on the list of archives received by the Service during the quarter.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am

Chair