

MINUTES OF FEDERATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CYFARTHFA CASTLE, 20TH JANUARY 2005

Present: Chris Delaney, Frank Olding, Scott Reid, Emma Chaplin, Chris Morgan, Andrew Deathe, Rachel Anderton, Chris Wilson

Apologies: Jane Henderson, Kevin Mason, Dafydd Roberts, Rachael Rogers, Michael Freeman, Liz Brabey

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted as a true record – 27th October 2004.

3. Matters Arising

Chris Morgan has written a programme for delivery of business plan and will complete this shortly.

Chris Wilson has spoken to Museum Association about a number of issues relating to Wales.

Emma Chaplin explained the new situation regarding the AIM Annual meeting, which will not be able to take place at Abertillery Museum. Chris Delaney will deliver a presentation to the minister on current issues regarding museums in Wales and will welcome any ideas or input into his presentation.

4. President's Report

Performance Indicators – Chris Delaney has sent out copies for feed back. The Welsh Assembly Government has acknowledged receipt of the information that has been sent, no further information is yet available. It has been argued for the retention of school visits is a good PI for attracting funding and possible posts.

Collections for the Future – the paper went in and has been acknowledged by the Museums Association that the e-mail group is not yet being accessed. Frank Olding's e-mail regarding the National Museums and Galleries of Wales acting as a possible renaissance hub for Wales has been passed to Eurwyn Williams of the National Museum but has not yet received a response. Feeling around the table was that the idea was worth developing and pursuing, taking on board mistakes and experiences England. Chris Delaney will discuss this with Linda Tomas.

5. The Editors' Report

Rachel Anderton said that the next issue of Y Mag magazine will appear in April or May, the dead line for copy is March 24th and one of the issues included in the magazine will be 'Who is advocating for Museums in Wales?' A call for copy will go out shortly.

6. Correspondence

Emma Chaplin had received a letter from a MA student from Leicester University regarding the nature of Educational provision in Museums in Wales.

7. Membership

Chris Wilson is hoping to give out a spreadsheet at the next meeting. There are currently 34 members, 24 institutional and 10 individual. The income currently stands at £3500.00.

Federation Membership will now run on the AGM year cycle from October to October. There are currently 360 potential members on the mailing list.

Emma Chaplin reported that John Marjorum is now the Welsh representative on the MLA registration committee.

8. Sub – Groups

Nothing to report.

9. Letters of Support

Andrew Deathe had received a request from Caerphilly for letters of support and asked whether the federation should have a policy on this matter. This forms an important of the advocacy role of the federation.

It was decided that the request should be sent to the federation members closest to the person making the request who would then draft a response on behalf of the federation.

10. Archaeological Archives

Chris Delaney reported for Jane Henderson that the on going partnership between The Royal Commission, Cymal Welsh Archaeological Trusts regarding the archaeological archive database has applied to Cymal for funding.

The question was raised as to whether the federation should facilitate the funding bid. This was agreed in principal.

11. Training

Scott Reid circulated CCI skills documentation, they are now interviewing for a national manager for Wales. Scott spoke to the papers circulated and asked for feedback. The NVQ's will remain as they are currently framed.

The agricultural collections day on 25th November was well attended and

included some representatives from England.

Interesting issues were raised with regard to the Rural Museums Network. A bid for funding for SSN status is with the MLA. The outcome is expected shortly.

Archaeology – a date at the beginning of May has been agreed for the training meeting to discuss archaeological collections. Frank Olding will meet with Scott Reid to finalise the arrangements shortly. The hope is to establish a consensus on museums needs and then to open the discussion with CADW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

Chris Wilson reported on progress with regard to the proposed advocacy event. He had spoken to Mark Taylor and Helen Wilkinson at the Museums Association. The MA does not control the editorial policy of the journal but would like to run an event. This needs a whole day event late in Spring or early in the Summer. The Museums Association will facilitate this with speakers and it will probably be held in Cardiff, they will also support the organisation of this event with a piece in the journal.

The federation needs to decide exactly what it wants to come out of this day and who will liaise with the Museum Association with regards to booking the Minister. Chris Wilson wants to e-mail issues that should be aired and has asked for feedback and a call for copy. The possible date in view is June or July.

12. The Web Site

Andrews Deathe has sourced a useful programme to allow past editions of the magazine to be browsed on line, it will cost £30 for a licence. This was agreed by the committee. Translators have been contacted and hopefully can be progressed shortly. They will have to be paid in Euros; he called for other information and events to go on the web site.

13. Grants

Michael Freeman's paper for funding for studies for collections on line was accepted as a very good idea and will be on the agenda for the next meeting. There after a design brief will be drawn up. Frank Olding agreed to e-mail his draft accreditation plans to members of the committee.

14. Cymal

Cymal has reminded members of the availability of bursaries for attendance at the Museums Conference is September.

The minutes of the meeting with CymaL held on the afternoon of January 20th 2005.

Cymal representatives present were Hugh Evans (Head of Advice and Support), Liz Bowman (Collections Adviser), Carol Whittaker (Museum Development Adviser).

Chris Delaney outlined the role of the federation to Cymal representatives and its background. He then briefed them on the proposed advocacy conference for June

and July and outlined areas of concern for example The National Museums and Galleries Hub and the MLA Concordat etc.

Carol Whittaker expressed the opinion that the more networks set up the better. The National Museum is unparalleled as a source of academic expertise and we will probably need to evaluate what we could expect from the National Museum. Hugh Evans added that Cymal remit does cover the establishment of networks and partnerships. The way in which MLA consults with Cymal and on which issues is being discussed.

The Federation identified a vacuum of support networks in Wales. Subject specialist networks (SSN's) are currently cross border. Cymal can support and facilitate SSN's between the National Museum and other museums in Wales and these relationships already exist with the National Library in Wales and the Archive & Library Community and this should provide a model for the museums sector in Wales. The Federation could establish these systems with the National Museum and Galleries. This would help national museums to fulfill their remit across Wales. CyMAL will also raise the SSN's with the National Museums and Galleries.

Chris Wilson raised the possibility of commissioning a scoping study on the role of the National Museum and Galleries as a HUB and as an SSN. This could be funded by Cymal.

Chris Delaney raised the grant aid issues, especially the 31st January cut off point for drawing down grant aid from Cymal. The closing date is the 31st January these are assessed in the first week of February and letters go out in early March and the start of projects can be before the Minister announces the grant.

The Federation raised their concerns with the CyMAL website.

Hugh Evans reported that the Welsh launch of the accreditation scheme will take place on March 2nd at St Fagan's and the scheme will be rolled out over three years. Year One will see Local Authority museums invited to apply for accreditation, year two Local Authority museums and large independents and year three small independents, including provisional museums. The Cymal small grants scheme will run throughout the year.