

**Ffederasiwn Amgueddfeydd ac Oriolau Celf Cymru**  
**The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales**

Charity Registration No. 1102270

**MINUTES OF FEDERATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**AT WELSHPOOL MUSEUM ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 AT 11.00AM**

**Present:** Chris Delaney, Frank Olding, Jane Henderson, Rachel Anderton, Barbara B., Susan D, John M, Martin, Scott Reid.

**Apologies:** Rachael Rogers, Emma Lewis, Chris Wilson, Andrew Deathe, Chris Morgan, Chris Wilson, Carol Whittaker

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

**Actions**

Accepted as a true record

**3. Matters Arising**

- 24 Hour Museum - nothing to report
- Michael Project - Chris Delaney and Rachael Rogers have started MDA Funding - Linda Tomos has not been available for a meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> ministerial meeting will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

CD/RR

- Membership - Some members have not received the renewal forms. Chris Delaney thought direct invoicing to current members would be more effective and straightforward. Chris Wilson will send out repeat Invoices.

CW

- Conference CILIP – Passed off very well – thanks to all concerned. The majority view was that the sessions were useful even though the afternoon session was a little pressed for time. General discussion ensued for future events concentrating on “strategic” issues. Possibly a more “cross-domain” agenda would be of more direct application! Others felt that “subject specialist” items would also be useful - Chris Delaney and Jane Henderson will discuss the way ahead with CILIP during 2008. Discussion regarding continuing association with CILIP or “stand alone “strategic events”.

CD/JH

WAG Elections – Chris Delaney will write to the new minister requesting an early meeting.

CD

Monuments Trust – Although John M circulated this information no one from Wales had submitted an application. UK – wide take up also disappointing.

CYMAL – “Spotlight” sent out in May, but has still not been published. General feeling that the election has caused a severe hiatus in the operation of CYMAL and the MLA sector in general.

MGM – Discussion of inadequacy of marketing and press coverage

4. Finance Report

Treasurer sent apologies. No report. John M reported a problem with paying invoices to MA regarding development officer. Chris Delaney undertook to raise the issue with Chris M ASAP.

CD

5. Membership

Only 7 – 10 people have joined (see “matters arising”) – there seems to be a problem with the mail shot. The best way ahead is to despatch renewal invoices rather than new membership application forms.

93 registered, accredited or provisionally registered museums in Wales – represents the potential membership base.

6. President's Report

- Cefni Barnett Fund - Many years since any application received at all. M. Freeman wishes to apply to research other Welsh Costume collections at various locations across Wales and UK. Seeking £300.00 from Cefni Barnett fund – agreed to award him £300.00 with appropriate acknowledgment.
- Letter from Kate Hebditch regarding Museum publicity material from Brittany. Agreed to receive the letter.
- Request from Liz Bowerman to add Collections Link to our website – committee agreed.
- What's in Store: Hillary Malaws has written to Gavin Evans regarding another archaeology archives day. Pilot study results (for collections database and access) still not finalised. Not enough archaeological data in Welsh museums and not in a standard format. CYMAL will fund one person to go around museums in Wales pulling together the data to improve the data, but Fed needs to submit an application. CYMAL will also fund a meeting of partners to discuss the way ahead and a facilitator to organise the meeting. This also needs an application from the Fed. Chris Delaney: should there be a strategy day to discuss an over-arching system for all collections!

1. Data Collection
2. Interface                      core issues to be addressed across the
3. Public Face                    museum sector

Digital Access to Collections Day is what is needed.

Jane Henderson Archaeological project is the pilot / trial for wider project.

Will the Fed submit an application with a meeting as a preliminary step?

Yes on an archaeology only basis.

HLF: "Collecting Cultures" – invites received for an introductory workshop at Builth. Chris Delaney encouraged as many members as possible to

## Actions

attend. The fund will allow museums to buy objects or collections in a strategic way. Richard Brewer has suggested a Wales-wide project to secure Treasure Act objects with the Fed as applicant / agent.

### 7. Development Officer

Museum Strategy – 5 regional meetings have been arranged over the next month or so – SW, SE, Mid, NE, NW Wales. John M has drawn up an outline list of issues and headings for discussion to lead to a structured outcome and will circulate to the regional co-ordinators. Martin E had also drawn up a list of topics for discussion and this was circulated and discussed. A range of broad issues (i.e. 7 or 8) seems to be the most fruitful approach. John M. will draw up and circulate a consolidated list of issues / topics.

JM

Evaluation of CYMAL Grant Programme – Andrea Johnson will consult with John M. and Chris Delaney. Fed is generally satisfied with the way the system works. Clear statements of where and how much money is spent would be useful. Major issue of concern is the timing of closure of accounts (end of January) and the knock-on effect on project timetables.

AJ

“Effective Collections” Pilot – Response received from Michael Freeman. John M. had attended a meeting and enquired about possible bids. A follow up with touring exhibition of the Ethnographic Survey was suggested as well as “peer Review” of specialist collections.

Publicity – The new publicity material has been designed and was circulated for discussion and / or approval.

Shaping the Future – NLW consultative document was circulated by Rachael Anderton for members to consider and offer comments by July 31<sup>st</sup>. If members submit comments to John M. he will then draft a joint Fed response.

JM

MA Consultation of proposed changes to their Code of Ethics re. disposals. Again, if any members have comments please submit to John M. in order to prepare a joint response.

JM

Pay in Museums – John M has prepared a paper for circulation and comments.

JM

14.20pm meeting paused for CYMAL meeting.

### CYMAL

1. Diversity Document: Will be published on 15<sup>th</sup> July.
2. Spotlight Document: Will be published this summer.

## Actions

Strategy – Programme timing to be decided when Lesley Anne Kerr returns from leave in July.

Small Grants Fund – Still open – environmental monitoring equipment.

Carol Whittaker - Very kindly provided pre-prepared notes of her contribution to the meeting.

Chris Delaney – Raised the issue of the transparency of CYMAL funding, i.e., where the money goes. Carol W. responded that CYMAL are looking into how best to provide this information in response to recent enquires from members of the public.

## **8. Editor's Report**

Entry Level Forum: Rachael Anderton circulated a paper for information and invited responses or comments ASAP. Discussion ensued at the level of applicants to jobs in Wales compared to similar posts in England.

Y Mag – Came out on time for CILIP conference and the next issue will be published in the autumn.

Salaries - for Y Mag (FO)

FO

Website – Barbara B. gave a brief report on website development. Consultant who updates the website has assured the Fed that current web space is ample for the Fed's purposes.

Translation – Into Welsh (2000 words for £160 -£170) agreed to prepare general pages and Frank Olding agreed to translate short updates.

## **9. Correspondence**

None

## **10. Scott Reid**

Phil Gibbons' report is almost complete and copies will be sent to those who contributed. Scott Reid outlined some of the main findings of the report. Many Mid-Wales lone curators find attending courses difficult due to lack of cover for the absence.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Costume Session at Ceredigion Museum, tour of museum and presentation on hats.

Dress and Textiles Subject Specialists (West Midlands and Wales) – Can do seminars or training on a range of issues, especially costume display – possible future event in Wales.

Frank Olding / Martin E – Had met regarding a possible military museums day topics and speakers identified – venue and date fluid - most likely date March 2008.

Conservation in Wales – a seminar on closures and cases will take place **Actions** next week.

Rachel Anderton – Possible that Fed's conference proposal may have been accepted.

11. **AOB**

Susan D – Nantclwyd House in Rhuthun will come “on line” in June.

12. **Next Meeting**

SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT CYNON VALLEY MUSEUM AT 11.00AM.