

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

**Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area
Museums Committee held on Monday, 14th September, 2026 at 2.00 pm in
the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30
5DQ**

PRESENT:

Borough Councillors

Councillors Bland, de Whalley, Kemp and Lintern

County Councillors

Councillors Colwell, Griffin and Williams (remotely via Teams)

Ex-Officio Non Voting Members

Councillor Kybird – Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Officers

Oliver Bone – Curator of the Lynn Museum

Robin Hanley – Assistant Head of Museums, Norfolk Museums Service

Hannah Jackson – Operations Manager, Norfolk Museums Service

Elizabeth Joisce – Learning and Engagement Officer, Norfolk Museums Service

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2026 TO 2027

RESOLVED: Councillor Kemp was appointed Chair for the Municipal Year 2026 to 2027.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2026 TO 2027

RESOLVED: County Councillor Colwell was appointed Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2026 to 2027.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Bubb, County Councillor Fry, Councillor Neale, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee and Lindsey Bavin, Manager of True's Yard Museum.

4 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 16th March 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee observed a one-minute silence in honour of the late Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh, former Committee Member.

6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7 **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

The Operations Manager, Assistant Head of Museums, Curator of the Lynn Museum, and Learning and Engagement Officer presented the report on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from March to August 2026. A copy of the report is attached in the Minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

1) Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

- 1.1** Current Exhibition: *Secrets from the Store*
- 1.2** Previous exhibition: *May The Toys Be With You*
- 1.3** Family Events
- 1.4** Family Trails
- 1.5** Mini Museum
- 1.6** Coffee Mornings

The Chair, Councillor Kemp, referred to the family events and coffee mornings and asked how these events were publicised, including to schools. The Curator of the Lynn Museum advised they had a strong social media presence and marketing team. He added they worked closely with colleagues in the town centre and used targeted Meta adverts to publicise their events.

Councillor de Whalley asked whether the Norfolk Museum Service would consider a temporary exhibition to accompany the reopening of St George's Guildhall in 2028. It was confirmed that the curatorial teams were working closely with the borough council on supporting the

development of the Guildhall in order to maximise the impact of the reopening.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- 1.7** Talks Programme
- 1.8** Workshops
- 1.9** Seahenge Guided tour for National Lottery Open Week
- 1.10** Seahenge Collaboration with Groundwork Gallery

In response to a question from the Chair regarding home educated and reduced-timetable students, the Learning and Engagement Officer confirmed that the Lynn Museum and Stories of Lynn partnered up to deliver a monthly home education programme, which includes students who operate on a reduced timetable.

Councillor de Whalley queried whether the museum service offers any programmes that engage non-mainstream schools. It was confirmed that the Lynn Museum had worked closely with SEN schools and they were developing a range of learning programmes that can better meet the needs of individuals and small groups that may not be supported through mainstream education.

Further attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- 2)** Newman Legacy Project
- 3)** Other Museum Developments
 - 3.1** Publicity and Promotion
 - 3.1.1** Social Media
 - 3.1.2** YouTube and Google Arts and Culture Platforms
 - 3.1.3** Traditional Media
 - 3.2** Norfolk Museums Pass
 - 3.3** NMS Teaching Museum Trainees
 - 3.4** Retail offer at Lynn Museum
 - 3.5** Volunteers

Councillor Kybird referred to the reserve collections. The Assistant Head of Museums confirmed that the collections work funded through the Newman Legacy is focused upon the Lynn Museum collections, some of which are stored at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse.

Councillor Kemp commented on the limited artefacts on display in the exhibition at Stories of Lynn from the 17th Century. It was explained that this display was put together by a group of young people, however some items were unavailable to them at the time, and some weren't

chosen by the young people to be a part of the exhibition. Councillor Kemp thanked the young people for their hard work in putting this exhibition together.

In response to a question from County Councillor Williams, the Assistant Head of Museums explained that the collections at King's Lynn were rich and diverse, including that of Seahenge and Horace the Tiger. Members were advised that Lynn Museum adhere to a detailed Collections Management Strategy, which identifies clear themes and priorities for future collecting, ensuring collections remain relevant to King's Lynn and West Norfolk and its heritage.

County Councillor Williams questioned whether the museum has displays showing the engineering heritage of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. It was confirmed that the museum displays the work of Frederick Savage and holds engineering drawings and wooden patterns from Savage's works, together with displays relating to other King's Lynn companies and industries.

In response to a question from the Chair regarding digitalising items, the Curator of the Lynn Museum explained that this was a project in waiting due to the resources associated with this work.

Councillor de Whalley asked how the museum could secure a loan of significant West Norfolk artefacts held by the British Museum. It was explained that the museum service has built a strong relationship with the British Museum which has allowed artefacts to be displayed locally. It was further explained that replicas can be valuable, however, museums must balance use of replicas and expectations of visitors to see the real item.

County Councillor Rob Colwell, Vice-Chair, praised the museums' social media teams and made reference to the 'Twilight Ticket' offered at the Lynn Museum. He asked if this scheme was promoted. The Assistant Head of Museums explained that this scheme was well-established across Norfolk and was promoted via social media, and other advertising. It was noted that the museum offers free admission to households receiving benefits, fostering and adoptive families, and Armed Forces families.

In relation to free admission during winter, Councillor Kemp suggested additional signage in the windows of Lynn Museum could help to raise awareness of this offer, particularly to those waiting for a bus at the station. It was agreed that the museum would review this.

Further attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

3.6 Finds Identification and Recording Day

4) Borough Council partnership working

4.1 Stories of Lynn – Events and Exhibitions

5) Learning and Outreach

5.1 School Visits – Lynn Museum

5.2 School Visits – Stories of Lynn

5.3 Kick the Dust – Activity in King's Lynn

6 Kick the Dust Norfolk – Countywide programme update

In response to a question from the Chair, the Learning and Engagement Officer estimated 660 children attended the *Rampage Through the Iron Age* workshops, although she would follow up and confirm the figure after the meeting.

Committee Members were advised that, over the previous year, 26 work experience placements had been hosted at Stories of Lynn in partnership with the College of West Anglia and Kick the Dust. It was also explained that an online programme had been delivered to widen access to young people across the region.

Councillor Kybird suggested that a letter was written and sent to former Committee Member, John Ward, in thanks of his years of service and support on the Committee. It was agreed that the Chair would compose and send the letter on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

8 **TRUE'S YARD REPORT**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

In the absence of the Manager at True's Yard, the Committee were advised that any questions would be forwarded on and a response would be circulated. Councillor Bland also offered to answer questions. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

In response to a question from Councillor Kemp regarding the recent repair works at True's Yard, Councillor Bland explained that funding had been provided to remove the concrete surface covering the area and reopen the site to the public. Although the possibility of rebuilding the cottages was explored, it was noted that the cost would be considerable.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

9 **STORIES OF LYNN AND TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE VISITOR FIGURES**

The visitor figures for the period March to July 2026 were noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes.

10 **UPDATES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Due to the announcement from government that Local Government Reorganisation was being paused and reviewed, there was no update.

11 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

There were no items identified at the Meeting.

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee was scheduled to take place on 4th January 2027 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 4.01 pm