

JOINT ARCHIVES BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026

Present: Cllrs Richard Biggs, Laura Beddow, Marion Le Poidevin and Andy Martin

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Sam Johnston (Service Manager for Archives and Records), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic and Governance Officer) and Matti Raudsepp (Corporate Director Customer and Business Delivery, BCP Council)

1. Appointment of Chair

The BCP portfolio holder was entitled to Chair the Joint Archives Board as per the procedure rules.

The proposal was made by Cllr Beddow, seconded by Cllr Biggs.

Decision:

That Cllr Andy Martin be appointed as Chair of the committee until May 2028.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Proposed by Cllr Beddow, seconded by Cllr LePoidevin.

Decision:

That Cllr Biggs be appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies of absence.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on the 4th February 2026 were confirmed.

6. Public Participation

There were no questions from the public.

7. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

8. **Capital Project and Update Report**

Sam Johnston, Service Manager for Archives and Records introduced the report. The majority of the report was an update on the capital project which followed a decision made by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to allocate £603,000 to the Dorset History Centre Joint Archives Service for the capital project. An 18-month development phase had started for the project which would have led to a second submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to see the project through. The beginning of the project was pending approval by Cabinet as it was a key decision due to the amount of funding involved (over £500,000). Fundraising alongside trusts and foundations had started to reach the required match funding to cover the shortfall of £110,000. This project was a key piece of work that would be highlighted in the next service development plan.

Updates were included regarding the William Barnes and Thomas Hardy projects, the digitisation by Ancestry, meetings with the Jewish congregations regarding cataloguing their archives, and the Wessex Water archives.

A discussion was had regarding BCP's new heritage strategy. It was hoped that the launch of the strategy would be an opportunity to talk about the history centre to give it more profile.

Concern was raised regarding Wessex Water's lack of interest in archiving their records. A mid-point report had been sent to them in the hope that they would pick it up and repurpose the information.

9. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

10. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.02 - 2.28 pm

Chairman

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