Orkney Natural History Society Museum

Remote Video Meeting, Tue 24/11/20

At Jen and Sheila’s request, I prepared a building and equipment maintenance cost estimate from October until the end of March 2021 as part of a grant application they are preparing.

Technical Manager’s Report

1. Information Technology

* 1. Internet: No Known Issues.
  2. Computer issues: No known issues!

2. Building Maintenance and Repairs:

2.1 Building: Paintwork (D. Jessiman , Painter and Decorator, Tel 851 210, 07950 120837)

The outside paintwork is complete.

2.2 Building: Concrete and Stone work:

(i) External south entrance requires refurbishment; South, West and East facing external walls require the same attention as Porch/Front Entrance wall – requires long term conservation solution.

(ii) External re-pointing of areas at foot of building where it meets with the roadway, and both upper corners of the street facing walls– requires long term conservation solution.

(iii) I now regularly check the pier and the outside of the building as part of the monthly maintenance schedule.

2.3 Building: General

I have requested visits from the Police Scotland community officer and the Scottish Fire Rescue Service Watch Manager (Stromness) – these visits are still outstanding despite my contacting the parties again. Still no progress here, unfortunately! Other trustees have agreed to assist me in contacting these people but no news so far.

2.4 Building: Plumbing: No known issues. Siobhan requested that the disabled toilet seat be replaced with a black seat as part of the Museum’s new policy on Dementia awareness – this work is still outstanding! I have contacted the plumber again but still no action – I’m guessing it is too small a job!

2.5 Building: Electrical & Mechanical: I have asked Tom Worthington to check the chimney pots for erosion, to give the roof a cursory once over to make sure there is nothing loose or broken prior to our impending major refurbishment. This work is outstanding due to Tom’s health issues. The work to add fluorescent strips to the Pilot House stairs to increase visibility for the sight impaired is outstanding.

2.5.1 Pilot’s House: The light in the Arctic Whaler cabinet is out! I looked at it and it requires the assistance of the exhibitions staff to repair as the Perspex diffuser needs removing completely to gain access as it is not cut into two pieces like the other cabinets of the same type. Since the Pilot’s House is closed to the public, this is not an urgent issue.

2.5.2 Natural History: All OK.

2.5.3 Ground Floor: 2 drain grills missing on outside downpipes – these small items are outstanding.

2.6 Intruder Alarm System: annual service complete!

2.7 Fire Alarm System: annual service complete!

2.8. Stair Lift: All OK! Safety inspection due 26/11/20 – a label indicating the maximum allowable weight has been added to the chair as per safety regulations.

2.9. Boiler and Radiators: Finally, Natural History thermo-hygrograph is with Darren Cox for servicing and conservation – due back late January.

John G Bartkowiak (Hon Technical Manager)