

National Centre for Computing History

Minutes of Meeting Held on 15th May 2007
at Pure Energy Multimedia, Rookwood Way, Haverhill

Present:

Jason Fitzpatrick, Elaine Collins, Lisa McGerty, Nick Keeble, Peter Robson

Apologies:

John Senior

Minutes recorded by:

Lisa McGerty

Summary of Discussion

- The Centre has been given permission to use the Counting House building at the Gurteen site, just off Haverhill High Street as its premises for the time being. Christopher Gurteen has been very generous in agreeing to sponsor the Centre to cover the Centre's share of the rent on this building, to the tune of £5000.
- Some of the Centre's core collection is already housed at the Counting House. The rest will be moved there during the next two months.
- The building has 6 allocated parking spaces and access is via the High Street.
- The committee felt that having the Gurteen's involvement in the project is very positive and hopefully will lead to other things. Having premises, especially in the town centre, should also spur things on. Once the Centre has been set up properly people will be able to visit it by invitation or request.
- Elaine reported that one of Haverhill's leading manufacturing companies has also expressed an interest in being involved in the project. They would like further details in order to make a decision on their involvement. The proposal document, business plan etc need to be put into place/reworked accordingly.
- The committee needs to look into issues surrounding insurance.
- Jason reported that he had also met with Graham Page of Ensors (accountants) who are also willing to be involved in the project. They will set up a company limited by guarantee on our behalf at a cost of £187

and then will also offer further accounting services when needed.

- Jason, Lisa, Peter and Nick all agreed to be directors of the new company. The limit of their liability is £1 each.
- The exact name of the company is to be agreed, as is the logo.
- Once the company has been registered a bank account needs to be opened. Samuel Ward have pledged a small amount of money to kick start the fund, which is very generous.
- Another museum has been discovered in Swindon - the Museum of Computing. This has connections with the University of Bath, has had a visit from the Duke of Kent and has sponsorship by Intel. They produce a regular newsletter. This whole project seems rather 'techie' though and would not likely have mass appeal. The committee agreed that the existence of this museum should not deter us, although we should perhaps reconsider our use of the word 'national' in our organisation's name. Lisa suggested that we might have problems registering this officially anyway as there are rules about using such terms in company names. The committee agreed that the Haverhill project has slightly different aims to the Swindon one, e.g. it is as much about stories and social history and also about putting Haverhill on the map as it is about computers. The committee agreed that we need to 'leapfrog' Swindon though to stay in the race!
- Bletchley also have an entity called retrobeep (retrobeep.org), though this is not well resourced or publicised.
- Jason suggested that we could collect stories for our Centre via the website - along a wikipedia type model. We could then produce a newsletter of our own. Printwise would sponsor this.
- The committee then visited the Counting House to tour the building and see some of the core collection. It was felt that there certainly is some potential in the Centre being located there, in the short term at least. Pure Energy will be located on the top floor and the Centre could be housed on the ground floor. Some of the rooms are quite small but the committee agreed that there would be sufficient space to exhibit key items with well thought out displays, podiums, graphics etc. These should have bold contemporary colours, large pictures, good lighting etc, although we can not modify the Counting House building in any way which will be a

limiting factor. Reference the following book for an idea of how the museum could look: The Computer, by Mark Frauenfeld, Carlton Books, 2005.

Actions

- Get the registered company set up. **Jason to liaise with Ensors. Lisa to look again at the rules about using National in the name.**
- Re-work the Centre's logo. **Jason to ask one of his designers for input, Lisa to ask one of hers.**
- Open a bank account, once company is in existence.
- Put details of the Counting House and Gurteen's involvement on the website. **Jason to do this.**
- Rework the proposal document and produce a shorter single page version. **Elaine to rework document. Lisa to arrange printing etc.**
- Start working on the business plan. **All to think about and Jason to liaise with John Senior.**
- Look into insurance issues. **Jason to do this in the first instance in relation to Pure Energy's insurance.**

Date of next meeting: TBC