

Disposal of mementoes / work of art

Background

1. During the office move in 2017 three items were discovered which had been overlooked or not adequately displayed previously.
2. The first item is a photograph commemorating the placing of a plaque, from Berwick upon Tweed, in a commemorative wall in a community in the Australia. The photo is a memento of this, and is commemorative rather than artistic.
3. The second item is a very large painting, in acrylics on canvas, measuring 2m x 1.2m by 'Alex Miller'. The subject is a plan view of Berwick upon Tweed and Tweedmouth, executed in naive style using bright primary colours.
4. The third item is a painting of a swan, by Jennifer Mosley, with a dedication, in paper affixed to the frame, dedicating the picture to 'the team who won the Berwick Parks Project.' As such it is both commemorative and artistically pleasant, although it would be more appropriate if the dedication were more permanently affixed.
5. Neither item has been recently displayed other than in the Town Council offices which are not designed for that purpose.
6. Staff have identified options; for the commemorative photograph they are
 - a. To continue to display it within the offices
 - b. To display it (with the consent of the Guild of Freeman) in the Town Hall,
or
 - c. To place it into safe storage.
7. As regards the Alex Mills picture, the options appear to be
 - a. To loan it to a gallery or venue where it will be publicly visible or
 - b. To place it into safe storage.
8. As regards the Jennifer Mosley picture, the options appear to be
 - a. To continue to display it within the offices
 - b. To display it (with the consent of the Guild of Freeman) in the Town Hall,
or
 - c. To place it into safe storage. Option a or b are likely to incur some additional cost for a more appropriate framing of the picture, and the addition of a more suitable commemorative plaque.

9. Members may wish to note that suitable storage for fragile items will incur some costs.

Recommendations

1. Councillors are recommended to make clear to their staff the options they prefer in relation to these items, and
2. To delegate to the Town Clerk authority, within the financial regulations, to incur any reasonable expenses in association with the preferred options.