16th July 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE meeting held on this day in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM from 19:31 to 21:15.

PRESENT
Chairman: Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson
Councillors: Cllrs M Bishop, C Moore and Mrs A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE
Arts and Culture Officer
Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr M Monk and K Morgan.

MEMBERS’ INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)
Cllr Mrs Hewetson stated that she is a trustee of the Cultural Partnership: more arts.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)
No questions have been received.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)
It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewetson and seconded by Cllr Bishop and it was that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 21st May (pages 15580 to 15583) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)
The Monitoring Report dated 10th July 2018 was received and considered.

Wokingham Mosaics:
To be considered under Agenda Item 13.

Market Place Celebration:
To be considered under Agenda Item 12a.

Livestreaming and video sharing to Care Homes:
The Arts and Culture Officer reported that she was considering future livestreaming options across the events as a whole. Specific engagement with Care Homes was estimated to begin soon.

Resident Feedback Device:
To be reflected on at next meeting.

At this point the Chairman requested to move to Agenda Item 8.
INTERNATIONAL STREET CONCERT (Agenda Item 8)
The report by the Town Clerk on the Street Concert was received and considered.
The Street Concert was discussed and it was agreed that this event had been highly successful but had grown beyond the technical expertise of the Council. It was agreed that in the future it would need to be outsourced in full but remain overseen and funded as a Town Council event. Also that consideration be made to ticketing options to be able to monitor numbers attending in advance. But should remain a free or significantly low cost (under £5) event for the residents of Wokingham. In order to do this it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewetson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Tebboth and it was

to request from the F&P Committee at their September meeting a £10,000 increase to the budget taking it to a total £35,000 event to manage the expected increase in provision needed to manage the expected audience size and to allow it to be outsourced in full to a suitably experienced outside contractor.

ACTION: RFO

OBJECTIVES (Agenda Item 6)
The objectives as presented were discussed and it was agreed that there should be a focus on the impact and quality of existing events rather than a continual drive to add more events. It was recognised that at this point the Officers were close to capacity with events.

It was suggested that the objective “We will strive for something going on every week” was impractical to the desire for higher quality events over higher quantity of events and that it was inferred with the objective to facilitate a programme of events.

It was agreed to reflect on the objectives and to over the next week send suggestions to the Arts and Culture Officer for collation and final agreement at the September meeting. It was requested that the Arts and Culture Officer contact not present members of the Committee asap to allow them to also send in comments.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)
The Arts and Culture Committee’s budget dated to 30th June was received and noted.

FUN DAY (Agenda Item 9)
The report by the Arts and Culture Officer on the 2018 Fun Day was received and considered.

The committee were in agreement with the report. It was additionally noted that there seemed a lessening of desire for balloons and as they are seen to be environmentally damaging, that options for more environmentally friendly options such as pinwheels and waving flags should be explored.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

CULTURAL MONTH (Agenda Item: 10)
The report by the Arts and Culture Officer on the Cultural Month was received and considered.
FUTURE PROJECTS (Agenda Item 11)
a) The report by the Arts and Culture Officer on possible future projects was received and considered. It was suggested that it might be possible to operate a scaled down version of the suggested Zombie run. The Arts and Culture Officer was able to report that she was continuing to engage with a provider to explore the concept further.

It was agreed on the matter of Sculpture trails that it would be revisited in the future.

b) The Committee recognised that there could be more done to engage with the teenage residents and requested that that be a priority when considering new events. Ideas included a Teen Music Concert and active events such as airsoft.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

ONGOING MAJOR PROJECTS (Agenda Item 12)
a) Market Place Celebration
The Chairman updated the committee on current progress for the Market Place celebration event on the 15th September.

Councillors asked what the fall-back position would be if the work ran on beyond the end date of 18th August. It was requested that close consultation with Balfour Beatty and the appropriate authority/Officer continue and push for the planned end date of August 18th, however if by the 31st August the Market Place was not complete that the event would be cancelled.

b) Wokingham Children’s Book Festival
The Arts and Culture Officer updated the Committee on the concept and work underway for the Wokingham Children’s Book Festival.

MOSAICS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 13)
The notes from the Mosaics Working Party meeting held on 9th May 2018 was received. The Chairman updated on recent progression.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 14)
No items were raised.

CHAIRMAN