

01st November 2017

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 19:30 to 20:25.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G S Hewetson
Councillors: Cllrs Mrs A Drake, Ms Gurney, K Morgan and Mrs S Steatham.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs: A Waters, D Lee & M Monk

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 Mrs Steatham and it was

**RESOLVED
29630**

that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 24th July 2017 (pages 15411 to 15413) 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 26th October 2017 was received and considered.

Mosaic Trail in the Town:

To be considered under Agenda Item 9.

Virtual Museum:

It was reported that a new volunteer has been found and many new items have been added to the museum.

With the significant progress made it was requested to consider the Virtual Museum as an agenda item at next meeting.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

Events in the Town Hall

Requests for ideas for workshops were sent out to local artists and creative groups. There were few ideas and enthusiasm at this time. It was agreed for the time being the idea would be left open as an option and revisited when approached directly.



The idea of a Literature festival for children in October half term next year was noted as one the Committee would particularly want to support. The Arts and Culture officer noted that the request for additional funding for this idea had been submitted to F&P for consideration. Some ideas specifically for this event included;

- Talking the library for contacts and other local institutions that run similar events for further insight into arranging such an event.
- Interactive events including readings, bedtime stories and write your own short story workshops.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND COMMITTEE

Cultural Month Advertising

The Arts and Culture Officer reports that last year's Cultural Month cultural advertisers are to be contacted by December and 2017 programme sent out to list of potential new culturally connected advertisers.

It was requested that if any members of the Committee thought of any particular organisation to contact to pass details to the Arts and Culture Officer.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 30th September 2017 was received and noted.

INTERNATIONAL STREET CONCERT (Agenda Item 7)

It was reported that the Arts and Culture Officer has been working on a Communications Plan and engaging with the Broad Street retailers and residents to create an e-group.

The Chairman reported that meetings for the 2018 concert had started and that Mr Zarb was well underway securing a selection of acts, including some that had been very well received in past years. Other elements that would continue to be considered at meetings going forward would be elements of the logistics including who is invited to supply food for the public and the importance of ensuring good quality and value for money for our residents.

SUNNY SATURDAYS (Agenda Item 8)

The A&C Officer report 6/2017-18 was received and considered.

The Committee were in agreement with all recommendations of the report.

For point 4.2 on continuing to engage with schools and youth groups to be part of Sunny Saturdays an idea was to consider an additional school performance as well as the usual Sunny Saturday performance.

For point 4.6 on gathering feedback. It was agreed that at this event a full feedback form for the audience, many of whom are transitory, would not be suitable. However gathering public comments on the established staff/councillors feedback form would be. Also a simple like, dislike system, either through technological or low tech means, as suggested by Cllrs Ms Gurney and Mrs Steatham, would also be worth exploring.

ACTION: CLLRS MS GURNEY AND MRS STEATHAM

DRESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE (Agenda Item 9)

The Arts and Culture Officer reported that due to the ongoing Market Place improvement works and the new position of the Christmas Tree it would not be safe or practical this year to have Dressing the Christmas Tree in the Market



Place as usual. For this year the event will take place in the Town Hall, Wokingham Choral Society would still be singing and the schools have been invited to join us and would have allocated seating. The deadline for schools to be part of the event this year has passed and they would be now given further instructions on numbers that can attend. Refreshments are still planned to happen with Tesco committing already to help us out with mince pies and hot chocolate. The event would be live streamed on the Wokingham Living Advent Calendar Facebook page. Finally there would still be a tree in the Market Place which would still have the children's decorations placed on it after the event.

There remained concern that they may be a lot of parents bringing their children to this event that will not be able to get into the building due to restriction on numbers. The Arts and Culture Officer reported that the nature of the event this year had been made very clear to the schools and she would continue to do so in subsequent communications but ultimately it was the schools responsibility to organise themselves and communicate to parents. However any support to manage crowds outside and assist with the evening from Councillors would be welcome.

MOSAICS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 14)

The notes from the Mosaics Working Party meeting held on 26th July 2017 were received.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 15)

Cllr Ms Gurney shared that the Amenities Committee in particular Cllr Mrs Forbes had been working strongly to discourage young people from creating graffiti.

Cllrs Ms Gurney asked if there was something that A&C could assist with by asking said young people if there was some other legal outlet for their creative urges that Wokingham could offer.

CHAIRMAN

