

## 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **DIAMOND JUBILEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 19:30 to 21:08.

### **PRESENT**

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

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Arts and Culture Officer  
Cllr M Bishop

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs D Lee, Mrs S Steatham and A Waters

### **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 Drake and it was

**RESOLVED  
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that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 (pages 15457 to 15459) 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was received and considered.

### **Mosaic Trail in the Town:**

To be considered under Agenda Item 14.

### **Virtual Museum:**

Work has progressed on this with the museum volunteer. It was decided that due to a busy Agenda this time with more time critical items that further consideration for the future growth and direction of the Virtual Museum, alongside visual aids of the existing content, would be pushed back to March meeting.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

### **ATTENDANCE (Agenda Item 6)**

The chairman noted that there had been a number of resignations from the committee and shared that Cllrs Lee and Vice Chairman Waters had requested to stand down. The Committee agreed that their preference for a new Vice Chairman would be current member Cllr Ms Gurney. The Item Committee membership would be discussed at Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.



### **COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)**

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 was received and noted.

### **OBJECTIVES REVIEW (Agenda Item 8)**

It was noted that some of the metrics particularly the one relating to a range of events was not measurable. It was considered to still be relevant however that work needed to be done to create measure for it. Cllr Ms Gurney was asked to use her professional capacity to suggest improvements to the existing metrics to ensure they are measurable by next meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**ACTION: CLLR MS GURNEY**

### **INTERNATIONAL STREET CONCERT (Agenda Item 9)**

The Chairman and the Arts and Culture Officer updated the Committee on work ongoing for the Street Concert in 2018. It was confirmed that the Concert would still be going ahead on the June 2<sup>nd</sup> date.

The Chairman shared a new concept for 2018 of a video wall that would add to the offer particularly from a sponsorship perspective. A number of iterations of displaying the wall on and around the stage had been suggested by the supplier including either side of the stage and along the back of the stage. After discussing the pros and cons of each variation the Committee agreed that it was a very good idea however more information was needed and consideration of other alternative placements, including across the top of the stage, to be discussed. It was requested that the Chairman go back to the supplier to find out more.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman shared that work was being done on the public food provision for the Concert. It was discussed that the placement of the food court in past years had been problematic with it being too far away in 2016 and too close in 2017. Councillors discussed placement of the food court and alternative placements for the stage to improve the site. Various restrictions were recognised including access for the Royal Mail, width of road at different points and the daytime provision for ArtFest. It was requested that the stage location and layout plans be shared with the Committee.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

The Chairman also shared that feedback had been received on the food court provision for past years and it was felt that a greater focus on local restaurants coming out and high quality international street vendors would suit the event better. The Chairman requested any recommendations from the Committee on provider who may fit the bill.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

### **MARKET PLACE RE-OPENING (Agenda Item 10)**

The Chairman shared a broad overview on what was being considered for the Market Place opening. The Committee discussed the event and came up with the following suggestions;

- The event should be linked to another event however waiting until September for the next major event in the Town Hall was felt to be too late. The event could be on a Saturday and linked to the July Theatre in the Park (which subject to agreement is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> July) for a weekend of events



- To open the event there need to be an element of spectacle. Some examples included; confetti cannons, flashmob, light show. It was recognised that further thought would need to made in how to achieve this.
- A competition to select local people to help open the event.
- A celebrity appearance
- Fancy dress
- Invite Balfour and their mascot as they have been integral to achieving this and should be included in the celebration.
- Consider asking Wokingham Theatre if they might help by supplying someone to act as Master of Ceremonies.
- Performers should be considered from the Living Advent Calendar performers.
- The event be professionally filmed and consider live streaming it.

It was recognised that there would be challenges regarding being able to conclusively agree a date and so being able to start booking provision in plenty of time to achieve the brief, particularly considering the recent challenges the Market Place project and the ongoing complexity of the works. However it was agreed that the opening should take place as soon as reasonably possible after the final works were complete.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

#### **WOKINGHAM LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR (Agenda Item 11)**

The Arts and Culture Officer was thanked for her report. It was recognised and agreed that the 2018 Wokingham Living Advent Calendar had been very well received and the Committee were in agreement with the recommendations.

The livestreaming and filming of the events this year was very successful and it was suggested that more could be done locally with this. In particular to film and supply or livestream and assist with the technological side, our events for showing in Care Homes. The Arts and Culture Officer noted that work had already been done to produce a film about Wokingham History presented by Cllr Bob Wyatt and that the Virtual Museum was experimenting with showing films as a number of old films of the Town had been recently digitised.

It was requested that we engage with the Care Homes initially to discuss the concept further and share what relevant content was already in circulation. Additionally to consider filming and livestreaming more of the events we put on for similar purpose.

#### **CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR (Agenda Item 12)**

The Chairman gave an overview of the initial plans for the planned October book fair including that Match funding had been achieved from more arts and that we were engaging with Wokingham Library to help progress the concept further.

It was suggested that as an additional idea we could look to do a book swap similar to or even connected to Book Crossing the worldwide book swap network.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

#### **ENGAGING YOUNG STREET ARTISTS (Agenda Item 13)**

The concept shared at the last meeting was discussed. Images of recent impressive work at the hoardings on Wellington Road was shared. It was agreed



that there were a number of very talented people decorating these hoardings and it would be a shame to lose the artwork once work began on the site.

**MOSAICS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 14)**

The notes from the Mosaics Working Party meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were received.

The Chairman updated the Committee on recent progression on the project and shared recent images of the works.

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 15)**

No items were raised.

**CHAIRMAN**

