

20th January 2020

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 21:07.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney

Councillors: Cllrs, P Cunningham, M Fumagalli, D Hinton, P Hornsby, M Malvern, T Lloyd and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

Miss Rull

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr A Box and Miss MacKinnon.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr Ms Gurney. Her friend works for Eclectic Games.

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 A Tebboth and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30081**

unanimously that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 18th November 2019 (pages 15964 to 15968) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman decided to consider Agenda Item 7 at this point.

WOKINGHAM CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL (Agenda Item 7)

The Committee thanked Mrs Elizabeth Macdonald (Wokingham Borough Council Libraries Service) for attending this meeting and for her work on the Wokingham Children's Book Festival.

There was discussion relating to the concept of a young adult (YA) book event and it was agreed that, considering professional advice and workload of existing staff and partner organisations, any such event should not take place around the existing Children's Book Festival. February had been discussed in the past and it was felt that doing a YA Book Day event at the library on the same weekend as the Board Gaming event here at the Town Hall would tap into a potential audience cross over which may be beneficial for promotion.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



It was recognised that in order to try to do this event in the 2020/21 financial year there was a funding gap. It was requested to try to source external funding promises for such an event before even considering requesting funds in-year from the Council. Budget projections place the amount required at £2000.

The Arts and Culture Officer was requested to pursue this event with the aim to it occurring in February 2021.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 12th November was received and considered.

Video sharing to Care Homes:

The Mosaics videos were made live and shared to the Care Homes via email. No one has got back to us and it is unclear if any of them have utilised the resource. It was agreed that this was as far as we would be able to go with this concept for now, however it remains a live resource that can be utilised and worked with should interest arise.

Miss Rull was happy to share it when the school was doing work in the community with WADE and the Dementia Centre.

This will be removed from the monitoring report.

Board Gaming Event

The Arts and Culture Officer reported that the event was live and ticket sales were ongoing with 30 of 60 tickets sold for the morning event and 40 of 60 tickets sold for the afternoon session.

The Chairman noted that assistance was requested to support the event, particularly on the door and as a second responsible adult was needed in the rooms. This was particularly relevant with regards to safeguarding as young people aged 12 and over were able to come unaccompanied. The Arts and Culture Officer was requested to share a spreadsheet in order for Councillors to sign up to help.

It was requested if there was a way to allow members of the public to just visit the on-site shop without purchasing a ticket to play any of the games. The Arts and Culture Officer reported that there were some logistical challenges that would make that difficult to manage however she would liaise with Eclectic and consider further the idea.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

Graffiti Boards

It was reported that data gathering is continuing, further work needs to be done on the viability of locations and communications with landowners on identified spaces has started.

Sunny Saturdays

It was reported that the 1st and 3rd Saturdays have been identified as best option for twice a month performances. Programming is to start soon. It was noted that while we remain hopeful that performances on other weeks will be

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possible in Peach Place, acoustic testing and further consideration from WBC on appropriate acts had not been able to take place as planned during the early winter. As it is a space we do not manage or own, performances as desired cannot be guaranteed. This will be removed from the monitoring report.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st December 2019 was received and noted.

PUBLIC ART IN WOKINGHAM (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Lloyd reported from the latest meeting of the external Public Art Group (PAG). He reported that the PAG had been approached by Wokingham Borough Council to brainstorm initial ideas for an artwork for the entrance blocks to Elms Field. It was noted that the Amenities Committee were considering additions to this area to improve safety.

The possibility for a piece of Public Art in the Carnival Development was noted. The PAG has been advised that the space indicated for this piece of Public Art is planned to be the final area to open to the public. It was agreed that the Committee would lend their support to this concept.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 9)

- a) No information items were received.
- b) The Committee suggested that the following items would be beneficial to promote:
 - The Town Hall Tabletop Takeover is now only two weeks away.
 - The Committee would like to support a Young Adult Book Day and is investigating the potential to do so.
 - The Committee is open to and considering options for Public Art in Wokingham.

ACTION: MARKETING COORDINATOR

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

It was proposed by Cllr A Tebboth and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30082**

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, e.g. legal and financial matters, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

THEATRE IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 11)

The Committee was disappointed with the small number of applications. It was noted that the received proposal did not fully reflect the brief. The Chairman noted that the proposal had been received prior to the revised brief going out; however the proposer had indicated they were content to let this proposal stand and were happy to amend if requested to fit better reflect the brief.

The Chairman also noted that the Committee could refuse the proposal however there was not enough time to request a new round of proposals, award it and have a theatre production cast, rehearsed and ready for early July. It had been

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indicated that the provider was known to the Council, and the Town Clerk and Arts and Culture Officer felt it would be possible to adapt the proposal to better fit the brief.

The Committee agreed to give delegated authority to a team including the Chairman and Vice Chairman to liaise with the provider to ensure that the final production be in line with the brief as written. Particular note was given to the following requirements;

- The budget be no more than the £2500 stated
- The event be in Elms Field
- The play be Shakespeare based, although consideration should be made to it being a fun and accessible telling of Shakespeare. Which should be reflected in the marketing.
- A sound system would be required
- Questions to be asked about how this event would be aligning to the goals of sustainability and inclusivity.
- The provider's plan in case of poor weather
- The event should not be ticketed

The Committee also requested that the revised proposal be distributed by email to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr D Hinton and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30083**

unanimously to instruct the Arts and Culture Officer to return to this provider with a list of requirements and questions to revise the proposal to better reflect the supplied brief. If confirmed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and officers, said provider be accepted to supply this service.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

