

9th March 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 20.49.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney
Councillors: Cllrs, A Box, M Fumagalli, P Hornsby, M Malvern, T Lloyd and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer
Miss Mackinnon

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr P Cunnington, Cllr D Hinton and Miss Rull

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

It was asked, on behalf of the Wokingham Arts Society and the Wokingham Arts Trail, if the Committee would be able to offer support for said organisations. The Wokingham Arts Society would appreciate the sponsorship of a prize for their annual Summer Exhibition. Wokingham Arts Trail would be grateful for support, varying from direct financial sponsorship to in kind support. It was noted that Wokingham Arts Trail had engaged with the Council to book one of rooms in the Town Hall for the weekend of the Trail.

The Committee requested that the Arts and Culture Officer consult with colleagues about the possibility of the following;

- Giving the Arts Trail free use of the booked space
- Helping to promote the Trail at Wokingham Town Council noticeboards and events in advance of the Trail (e.g. Heritage Day).

It was noted that the Arts Trail and Arts Society Summer Exhibition will both be part of Love Wokingham promotional activities.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr P Hornsby and it was

**RESOLVED
30102**

on a vote of 6 for (1 did not vote), that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 20th January 2020 (pages 16004 to 16007) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



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

WOKINGHAM LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR (Agenda Item 7)

The report on the 2019 Wokingham Living Advent Calendar was received and considered.

Mr Jim Stockley, Chairman of More Arts, gave an overview of the project and asked for the Committee's view on moving the event forward.

The event was discussed and it was agreed that the events strength was as a community involved event. The Committee felt that the existing model as an Advent Calendar should stay. A potential move to longer just weekend events was interesting but may move it too far away from its original purpose.

More Arts were asked to consider the following when building this year's event;

- Ensure local acts are used
- Investigate more teen and youth groups via schools (with Wokingham Town Council initial assistance to build contacts)
- Less pubs as there was concern that too many pubs, especially when targeting a family audience, may not be appealing.
- Potentially trial having some of the performances in wards and outside the Town Centre.

It was also requested that more work polling the Wokingham public may help identify the best time to put performances on. It was suggested that Councillors, in conjunction with the Marketing Coordinator, could assist More Arts in utilising social media (e.g. Facebook groups) as a method of gaining useful data for this.

ACTION: COUNCILLORS/MARKETING COORDINATOR

It was also asked if it would be useful for More Arts to attend at a future time to give an overview to the Committee on what they do. It was agreed that this could be useful to give context for the larger Arts Scene in Wokingham and the Arts and Culture Officer to investigate when might be a suitable time to do so.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 3rd March was received and considered.

Graffiti Boards:

The Arts and Culture Officer, followed by the Town Clerk, has been in touch with Wokingham Borough Council for the sites identified and to indicate potential support to other sites they might identify. Unfortunately this has not proved fruitful and at this time it is not felt that this will move on. The Arts and Culture Officer was asked to add it to the list of potential future ideas and remove from the monitoring report.

Theatre in the Park

As per resolution 30083 the A&C Chairman, Officer and Town Clerk met with the preferred supplier to discuss the committees requests to amend the proposal. The proposal was amended to the Committees wishes and as such the event will

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



be going ahead. It was agreed this action is now complete and can be removed from the monitoring report.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st January 2020 was received and noted.

BOARD GAMING EVENT (Agenda Item 8)

The report was received and considered. Ideas for improving the event and Eclectic Games wish to continue to be involved were noted.

It was proposed by Cllr A Box and seconded by Cllr T Lloyd and it was

**RESOLVED
30103**

unanimously to repeat the event next year.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 9)

a) The following items for information were received.

- Councillors were informed that there had been some discussion about a Pride Event. It was noted that this could be something to discuss when considering future projects.
- Councillors were informed that work was ongoing externally with the concept of public art on the blocks at Elms Field.
- Councillors were requested to consider a concept of a Treasure Trail in association with and promoting Wokingham in Bloom. The Arts and Culture Officer will investigate further.
- Councillors were updated that work on the Science with Schools project was going well and work was ongoing to finalise a speaker.

b) The Committee suggested that the following items would be beneficial to promote:

- The Board Gaming event would be returning
- We are looking at ways to improve the Wokingham Living Advent Calendar and would appreciate feedback from the public
- Theatre in the Park would be happening on Elms Field on 2nd August

ACTION: MARKETING COORDINATOR

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

