

13th July 2020

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** meeting held virtually on this day from 19.31 to 20.55.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer
Miss Rull

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

The were no apologies for absence

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no questions from members of the council or public.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr A Tebboth and it was

**RESOLVED
30151**

unanimously, that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 1st June 2020 (pages 16074 to 16077) 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 6th July was received and considered.

Invite More Arts to a future meeting:

It was agreed that for the time being, it would be best to invite More Arts to the next suitable date when meetings were taking place in person.

Book festival update:

It was reported that work was continuing to programme the Book Festival as an online event. Digital webinar platforms were being tested alongside contracting authors and finalising marketing strategies.

New Ideas update:

Work has started to achieve fully costed proposals for the September meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 30th June 2020 was received and noted.

It was asked what the expected position of the Committee's budget was going to be, considering so much of the activity was unable to happen this year. The Chairman advised that it was expected that the Arts and Culture Committee would be underspent however this would be balanced with the overall spend of the Council and the impact COVID is having in other areas of the Council budget.

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY (Agenda Item 7)

The draft response was received and considered.

It was proposed by Cllr Gurney and seconded by Cllr Tebboth and it was

**RESOLVED
30152**

unanimously to accept the draft response as presented and send it on to Wokingham Borough Council.

NEW IDEAS (Agenda Item 8)

The memo outlining the responses to the Facebook post asking the public for their ideas for future events, was received and considered.

With regards to the proposed International Day, it was agreed to look into the concept further including starting to build relationships with local cultural groups in order to investigate a way forward that would be supportive of them. It was noted that we have contacts with the Town Twinning Association as well as some speciality ethnic food traders and a number of Councillors have contacts with other cultural societies.

It was requested that any Councillors with potential contacts pass on details to the Arts and Culture Officer as appropriate.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

Regarding the concept of a Classic Car event, it was noted that Cllr Cunnington has a contact with an organisation that runs similar events. It was also suggested to avoid closing a road, a car park such as Denmark Street might be used to display the vehicles. It was noted that as well as the cost involved with a road closure there were other difficulties when shutting down through routes within the Town.

It was requested that the Arts and Culture Officer look into the idea.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

A member public joined the meeting

THEATRE IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 9)

The Arts and Culture Officer gave an update based on a catch up meeting including the provider and the Town Clerk, and very recent Government guidance on the provision of Outdoor Theatre.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



In short outdoor theatre was now permitted, subject to guidance on how it can be done safely. Based on this information and the meeting, the Officer suggested that only Howard Palmer Gardens would be a suitable location to control and restrict the numbers and ensure social distancing as per government guidance.

The concept was discussed at length. The Committee were broadly in favour (6 to 3) of going ahead, subject to proper safety measures including pre-booked tickets. It was felt that a discussion with the Town Clerk should be held to determine whether a resolution is needed. If that proved to be necessary this should be taken to the next Full Council in the absence of a timely Arts & Culture meeting.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND TOWN CLERK

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 10)

a) The following items for information were received.

- **Public Art:** Councillor Lloyd reported that the Public Art Working Group are continuing to meet and were in discussions about adding a piece of public art to the plans for Carnival. There were also ongoing discussions relating to artistic signage in Peach Place. It was reported that there was appetite for more public art and if the Town Council would be interested in helping to fund. It was noted that that might be an area where the Grants process might be a better fit.

It was asked what was happening with the 'Water Babies' sculpture when the Library moved locations, and it was reported that no fixed plans had been made as yet. Could one of our local green spaces be a good fit for it?

It was also suggested if there was an opportunity with the work going on planning the 'Garden of Reflection' if the inclusion of some sort of art would add value to the project. Cllr Lack replied that he would pass the idea on to the Amenities Officer.

The member of the public left the meeting.

- **Science with Schools:** Councillor Fumagalli reported that work was going well to transfer the event into a digital one. He was concerned that with the move to online, visibility of Town Council support might be lost and asked if the Mayor or another Councillor might consider supporting by being on video in some way and any visual assets noting the Town Council support be supplied.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



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

- Book festival
- Science in Schools
- Theatre in the Park (once a formal decision has been made).

ACTION: MARKETING COORDINATOR

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

