

14th September 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 19:30 to 21:55.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor M Malvern.

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
30173**

unanimously, that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 13th July 2020 (pages 16110 to 16113) 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, preferably when meetings were taking place in person.

New Ideas update:

It was noted that a number of projects had been prepared for this meeting however, due to time pressures it had not been possible to prepare the proposed Classic Car Rally.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

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

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FUNDAY REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

The report, with a focus on improving the recycling provision at the event, was received and considered. Councillors were unanimously in favour of the principle of improving the recycling at the event. It was requested that any considered company(s) provide details of the waste they could recycle and the chain of recycling before any decision be made. Additionally the Art and Culture Officer stated that references and licences would be requested from any supplier.

The Committee also requested that advice and encouragement be provided to any food providers at the event to reduce the creation of waste.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was discussed if the Committee would prefer to request an additional £600 from F&P to support the concept or if they would rather utilise existing budget and reduce entertainment provision.

5 voted to increase the budget, 2 abstained and 1 voted to keep the existing budget.

The Committee recognised that if F&P did not increase the Fun Day budget the Committee would have to look at cutting entertainment provision.

SINGING TREES REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

The report on the singing trees concept was received and considered. It was broadly agreed that at this time the concept was not practical to move on in this physical format.

An alternative digital version was discussed. This would utilise a static non-powered item, such as a printed QR code or NFC device at a tree that could react to an individual's smart phone and play the music through the phone. This would be tied to a website and through an App (Wokingham History App potentially). It would likely be far cheaper, vandalism would be less of a concern and environmentally less negatively impactful. Any technology explored and/or utilised may also be considered to improve the existing app work of the Council.

Ideas for content were discussed. It was agreed that the tie of artistry with nature was of strong importance and would be preferable over historical or scientific content. Commissioning local band(s) to produce music for individual trees could be something to look into, which would also manage any ongoing rights costs. Other audio artistry such as poetry might be an option.

The Arts and Culture Officer was instructed to, over the next year, investigate costs associated with achieving content and creating a digital and physical framework to place this in.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

CHALK ABOUT IT REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

The report on the Chalk about it concept was received and considered. There was concern over costs and discussion if a lower amount would be more suitable for the first time event. The Committee requested that should this event

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be funded, that local arts organisations be considered. The Arts and Culture Officer noted that this was an amount bench marked with the assistance of a specialist company, however once a full detailed brief was produced it would be expected to follow the usual process for this amount, by going out for quotes. This would include locals arts orgs that may need to look to subcontract a specialist chalk artist.

It was agreed to request max £3000 from F&P to support this project.

Should the project go ahead, the Arts and Culture Officer was requested to consider and utilise the following:

- Investigate and request any data relating to local mental health, particularly post lockdown. Cllr Cunnington noted he may be able to help.
- To consider the targeted demographic to be young people. Particularly 16-30 years old men.
- Consider, particularly with regards to any workshop or direct interaction, the best ways to both encourage individuals (who may feel uncomfortable about engaging or expressing their mental health difficulties in public) to attend and participate in the event.
- To invite as well as local mental health charities, local NHS relevant services.
- To ensure the event and the artwork is fully documented as it will be temporary.
- To consider a chalkboard as an alternative option, both as a quick, easy to access and low pressure option for those less inclined to draw and also serving individuals who may not be able to physically draw on the ground.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

INTERNATIONAL DAY REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

The report on the International Day was received and considered. It was recognised that minimal communication had been undertaken with local ethnic groups. However those groups who Councillors had interacted with were keen, while also recognising that some are informal groups rather than structured organisations.

Councillors recommended that the event primarily be composed from these local groups where possible, and could include traditional foods as well as other aspects of culture like dance and music etc. Non local professionals (music or food for example) would fill gaps.

It was requested that further consideration into how to reduce waste and recycle waste produced at the event be made. The Arts and Culture Officer will liaise with the Market Manager to discuss this.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

The Committee agreed to request max £3000 for this event from F&P.

THEATRE IN THE PARK REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

The report on the 2020 Theatre in the Park (COVID amended event) was received and considered. The Committee were thankful the event went well and

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recognised that it was a very different event than planned due to the ongoing pandemic.

**RESOLVED
30174**

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

to extend Bart Lee Theatre's Contract for a further two years.

It was reiterated that the Committee would like to see, circumstances allowing, the event run as proposed on Elms Field.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was agreed that they would not ask for any funds to allow extra dates for a travelling show around the wards.

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR 2021/22 (Agenda Item 12)

The spreadsheet was received and considered.

There was discussion relating to reducing costs for existing events in order to be able to fund some of the new proposed initiatives. Ultimately it was decided to not alter any existing events.

**RESOLVED
30175**

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

unanimously, to request the following from F&P in this priority order.

1. International Day (£3000)
2. Chalk About It (£3000)
3. Fun Day (£600)

RETURN TO PHYSICAL MEETINGS (Agenda Item 13)

The idea of returning to physical meetings was discussed and it was agreed that there was still a preference by the Arts and Culture Committee for virtual meetings.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 14)

- a) The following item for information was received.

Wokingham Panto: The Arts and Culture Officer reported that the Town Clerk had agreed to a request to use Howard Palmer Gardens in a similar fashion to the Theatre in the Park event to hold a socially distanced and COVID safe version of the annual local pantomime.

- b) Due to the nature of this meeting only covering proposed future activities for later discussion at F&P no items were deemed beneficial to promote.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

