

5th June 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Arts and Culture Committee** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19.34 to 21:45

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr B Callender

Councillors: S Cornish, A Domingue, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, S Gurney, M Malvern and A Medhurst.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were apologies for absence from Cllr P Cunnington.

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 M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30649**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023 (pages 16699 to 16702), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 30th May was received and considered.

Science with Schools

To be considered under Agenda Item: 8

Future Lunar New Years

To be considered under Agenda Item 10.

It was noted that the current principles of the Council and the Arts and Culture Committee were included with the monitoring report for information. New Councillors were given an overview of them by a longstanding member of this Committee. It was noted that the Strategy Working Party would be looking at the principles of the Council and that these may change to reflect the aspirations of the new Council. Once this was completed, work would then begin for all Committees to formulate how the principles would shape their work.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 30th April 2023 was received and noted.

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The Arts and Culture Officer gave a quick run-down of the budget but noted that queries about structure and presentation may be best directed to the Responsible Finance Officer

Cllr Fraser joined the meeting.

UPDATE ON ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS (Agenda Item 7)

The Arts and Culture Officer was thanked for the comprehensive document on the Committee's projects and events. The Arts and Culture Officer welcomed feedback on the document and how it could best serve this Committee.

It was noted that the principles of Service and Distinctiveness don't appear within each individual event. Inclusivity and Sustainability are not consistent and sometimes cover what we are already doing well, or where we could improve. It was noted that post event reports are created that provide more detail on each event, but that work here could be done to refine this document. Its primary role is as an overview of the Committee's events, particularly useful when considering new events.

Some of the events, with particular reference to inclusivity, were discussed.

It was noted that the Decorated Cabinets were not on the document. The Arts and Culture Officer will add it.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was asked about the status of the Town Hall Tabletop Takeover and when the deferred decision from the past Committee about doing to event twice in a year may appear for the current Committee. It was noted this would fall alongside the decision on future events later in the year.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

SCIENCE WITH SCHOOLS (Agenda Item 8)

The Arts and Culture Officer gave an overview of the project and its history. It was noted that the schools already involved had offered suggestions and that a focus on Food Security and how it connects to the curriculum would be a possible topic. The Arts and Culture Officer would be working with the schools on a date, noting that it can be a challenge to find a date that both schools can agree on due to timetabling differences.

Encouraging other schools to be a part of the project is always a consideration however this is done best if there is a direct contact with the right teacher. The Committee were asked if they had any relevant contacts, either with local schools (Wokingham Town Catchment) or potential speakers, to get in touch with the Arts and Culture Officer.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

PARTY IN PARK (Agenda Item 9)

The Arts and Culture Officer updated the Committee on the request from a local business to augment the Party in the Park by using the infrastructure to host a large-scale paint along. The Committee were asked to consider the concept, in

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particular for next Committee meeting when the report on the Party in the Park will be available. It was noted that we were currently requesting the business to look into further detail with regards to the concept, and come back with fixed costs and a more detailed proposal. Initial thoughts were that the idea was interesting but there was concern that it could muddy or over complicate our flagship event. However further discussion was warranted.

LUNAR NEW YEAR (Agenda Item 10)

The report was received and considered. The Committee were very excited about this event and keen for it to continue.

**RESOLVED
30650**

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

to request from F&P an in-year increase to the International Day/ Lunar New Year budget of £6,800. Bringing the total budget to £9,800 for the event in February 2024.

The vote was unanimously in favour.

This budget included provision for a road closure, a slightly higher stage, security and first aid support, more entertainment, and a budget to support children's activities. The accessible viewing platform was discussed. As the plan included provision for the lion to dance twice and to mingle in the crowd it was requested to explore a floor level disabled viewing area including a request for the lion to visit it as part of the performance.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

- a) It was requested to discuss with the Town Clerk if a representative with the local Public Art group would be warranted. Previously a Councillor from this Committee had informally been part of this.
- b) It was suggested that if and when practical, to let the residents know that we will be doing Lunar New Year again.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

