

11th July 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Arts and Culture Committee** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19.30 to 21:32

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr S Gurney

Councillors: Cllrs P Cunnington, M Fumagalli, P Hornsby, T Lloyd, M Malvern and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs J Ainslie and M Gee (The Mayor).

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
30478**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 14th March 2022 (pages 16483 to 16485), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 8th March was received and considered.

Erfstadt Panels

To be considered under Agenda Item 11.

Wokingham Advent

To be considered under Agenda Item 8.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st May 2022 was received and noted.

PLATINUM JUBILEE (Agenda Item 7)

The Arts and Culture Officer was thanked for the report and the work done on what was felt to have been a very successful event.

The Committee felt that more could be done to improve the sound quality on Elms Field and was concerned that after so many years feeding back about sound quality that it remained an issue. It was agreed that sound was a priority when preparing the brief for the new contract for this event.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



There was also agreement to be circumspect when looking at a budgetary increase for the event and if there were any ways to encourage the event to partially fund itself through, for example, income from the food traders.

It was felt that this event should return to a concert rather than the expanded provision and if retained on Elms Field a new name would be needed. There was discussion that International need not be part of the title, however the event should showcase diversity as the report recommended, and include diversity in genre. To also return to fewer tribute acts and more original and cover bands. The Committee also agreed that they did not feel the children's entertainment was needed.

**RESOLVED
30479**

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

to accept the recommendations in the report to:

- Continue to have the event on Elms Field
- To finish by 9pm
- To benchmark cost based on 4 acts
- To continue to ensure, cultural, race and gender diversity in the acts
- To keep the inclusivity provision introduced this year.

It was requested if possible to find out the cost difference between 4 and 5 acts. On the information above the Officer will benchmark the cost of the event for the 2023-24 year and provide a report for the Committee for September's budget request meeting.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

FUN DAY (Agenda Item 8)

The report was received and considered. It was discussed if it would be possible to reach out to local organisations, between now and September meeting, who may be able to attend with appropriate activities for low to no cost. This may help augment provision without spending significant extra funds.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

The Committee acknowledged the recommendations and they agreed to put off agreeing any amount of funds for extra provision until September's meeting when the full financial picture for the Committee was clearer. They also agreed to not purchase a new stock of windmills and leave that for the new council to discuss.

**RESOLVED
30480**

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr T Lloyd and it was

to request from F&P a minimum on £10,600 for the Fun Day to keep it at current provision.

EVENT IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW EVENTS (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee had no specific requests for potential event improvements or new events.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



The Chair noting that her view would be that the Committee focus on making sure they leave their existing events in a good position for the future Council.

It was noted that International Day was again proving hard to move along but that traction had been gained in the Chinese community and the suggested shift this financial year for International Day towards a Lunar New Year event was welcomed by the Committee.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR (Agenda Item 10)

The briefing note about this year's Wokingham Living Advent Calendar was received. Following the previous meeting of the Committee 'morearts.' had agreed to take on the publicity side of this event. They had later contacted the Town Clerk to note that they would not be able to deliver the event this year and funds would be returned.

The Committee expressed their disappointment at this event not going ahead this year. Ideas were sought for any way to maintain this event.

ACTION: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It was acknowledged that officers would not be able to deliver this event. The Committee agreed that it was worth exploring extending the stand-alone Christmas Sing Along.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

**RESOLVED
30481**

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

to recommend to F&P to release the Living Advent Calendar budget held by this Committee and to pass the funds and responsibility for publicity to the grant holder 'morearts.'

It was acknowledged that due to current circumstances this revised budget would be for the next time this event is due to take place (2023/24 financial year).

ERFTSTADT PANELS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 11)

The notes of the proceedings of the Erftstadt Panels Working Party held on the 21st April, 17th May and 7th June were received and noted.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr Lloyd gave an update on the Public Art group and the Arts4 Wokingham sculpture for WBC's Carnival site. He noted that there was an open meeting of the Wokingham Society on evening of 19th July at the Town Hall where the artist would be talking about the sculpture.

Marketing requests: It was requested when suitable to talk about the artist and the work to create the artworks at Erftstadt Court.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

