

# 12<sup>th</sup> September 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 20:52

## **PRESENT**

Chair: Cllr S Gurney

Councillors: Cllrs J Ainslie, 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 Cllr 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 P Hornsby and it was

**RESOLVED  
30497**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (pages 16560 to 16562), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

## **MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)**

The Monitoring Report dated 6th September was received and considered.

## **Erfstadt Panels**

To be considered under Agenda Item 10.

## **Benchmark Concert costs**

To be considered under Agenda Item 9.

## **Sunny Saturdays**

Due to current extraordinary circumstances, the Committee were requested to decide if the planned Sunny Saturday event for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September should go ahead? Considering it would be taking place during a period of national mourning.

The Committee voted: 3 abstentions, 5 in favour of it going ahead.

The Arts and Culture Officer was instructed to go ahead with the event, subject to the band still wanting to play and the event being modified to reflect public mood.

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



### **COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)**

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 was received and noted.

### **THEATRE IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 7)**

The report was received and considered. There was some concern regarding whether the event was attracting a large enough audience in comparison to its cost to continue being value for money.

The Committee acknowledged that there had been some improvement in attendance due to performing on Elms Field. It was agreed that it should stay there and as such would benefit from the increase in funds to ensure it was properly amplified in the larger space. This would be an uplift request of £1250. It was not felt that this was the time to increase the number of performances.

It was requested to look at more options for marketing this event. Including banners by the old library site and on Elms Field. A sign on the Market Place on the day of the event advertising "event, time and location" was also suggested.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

### **CHALK ABOUT IT (Agenda Item 8)**

The report was received and considered. It was agreed to:

- extend the contract for a third and final year
- to request additional funds of £1050 for the inflationary uplift and extra artist support
- to maintain the August date for the event

It was noted that the easel-based provision, intended to ensure that individuals who could not get on the ground to chalk could be involved, was very busy with children wanting to take part. It was requested to consider ways to rework or manage that area to ensure that it was used by the intended audience.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

### **EVENT BUDGET INCREASES (Agenda Item 9)**

The report was received and considered. There was discussion around who might else be able to support the Book Festival with the concern around the potential loss of Outreach sponsorship in mind. Wokingham Borough Council was suggested as an alternative funding source. The Arts and Culture Officer agreed that they could be asked. However, the library service was undertaking a significant move at the moment among other pressures this summer.

The budgetary increase for Fun Day to extend the provision was discussed. It was agreed to ask for the full amount of £4,000, in addition to the £2800 uplift agreed at last meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Gurney and seconded by Cllr Malvern and it was to request from the F&P Committee the following in this order of priority.

**RESOLVED  
30498**

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



1. **Wokingham Children's Fun Day: an uplift of £6,800**, taking the total for this event to £14,600
2. **Concert on Elms Field: an uplift of £5,780**, taking the total for this event to £60,000
3. **Wokingham Children's Book Festival: and uplift of £1,200**, taking the total from the precept for this event to £4,200 and the overall budget to £7,800.
4. **Chalk About It: an uplift of £1,050**, taking the total for this event to £4,050
5. **Theatre in the Park: an uplift of £1,250**, taking the total for this event to £3,750

**ACTION: RFO AND ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

The suggestion to enable the Arts and Culture Officer to choose the provision for the aspects of the Fun Day and Theatre in the Park from supplied quotes was considered.

**RESOLVED  
30499**

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

to delegate authority on choosing providers for Fun Day and Theatre in the Park to the Arts and Culture Officer.

**ERFTSTADT PANELS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 10)**

The notes of the proceeding of the Ertstadt Panels Working Party held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were received and noted.

It was noted that there was a planned meeting for September. It was reported that that was cancelled due to a lack of business but we would be looking to have one in October.

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)**

There were no individual items from Committee.

**Marketing requests:**

There was a request to have an Agenda Item around Marketing at the next meeting. It was felt that, for some events, more could have been done with regards to marketing with some concerns over the Love Wokingham website and how WTC presented events on its own website. It was queried why the Book Festival wasn't on the WTC website as yet. The Arts and Culture Officer noted that it was due to be launched the previous Friday but had to be postponed due to the Queen's death on the Thursday evening. The postponed date was to be reviewed this week. The Arts and Culture Officer would talk to the Town Clerk on how best to approach this request.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK AND ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

**CHAIR**

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

