

17th July 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Arts and Culture Committee** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19.32 to 21:36

PRESENT

Vice Chair: Cllr A Domingue

Councillors: S Cornish, 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 Cllrs B Callender and 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 M Malvern and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was

**RESOLVED
30665**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 5th June 2023 (pages 16758 to 16760), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 11th July was received and considered.

Amendments to Committee Projects and Events document

Subsequent to the previous meeting the Arts and Culture Officer has added in Decorated Cabinets to this document. Work continues to amend this document during the year, particularly in response to any strategic changes from Council.

Future Lunar New Years

F&P have agreed the requested funds for this event. Work will begin on the 2024 event asap. The event funding will need to be picked up in November's meeting to confirm with F&P if A&C wish for it to be a recurring event.

Appointment to Arts4Wokingham

The Town Clerk has spoken to Arts4Wokingham to understand the scope of this commitment. She has ensured that there remains a good line of communication into the Officers from the organisation, but at this time doesn't feel an official rep is needed. As new members settle into their roles, and should the Committee feel they would like a closer contact, this could be reassessed.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

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

FUN DAY (Agenda Item 7)

The Arts and Culture Officer was thanked for the comprehensive report on this event. The event was discussed at length, noting how much the public value it, as well as how well attended it is.

There was hesitancy to reduce provision but acknowledgment that it could not infinitely grow. Generally the Committee were looking at low cost expansion coming from attending providers or charity groups. An example being enabling the birds of prey to fly in a display area, that might be also used for other demonstrations, like dog agility. The exception was the bungee trampolines which were a very popular attraction. It was discussed to potentially add an extra set but not reduce flexibility for the Officer to be able to chose suitable rides. It was also requested to have some water on hand for the providers, in particular the volunteer and charity providers.

SEN provision was also high on the Committee's wish list. Already noted as things to explore were a quiet half hour for SEN attendees at the beginning of the event and a private space for SEN individuals to recalibrate or manage needs. Support from knowledgeable organisations was highlighted as a next step.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

There was a recognition that the event attracts attendees from outside the Town and the larger it gets the more support it needs. There was a hesitancy to reduce the opening hours of the event, but rather increase support. The Committee requested that they be called upon more to assist at this event, not just during public hours, but during the set up and takedown. It was discussed about options to support to the Arts and Culture Officer including; temporary staff (Summer intern with an interest in event management) and, engaging with the Voluntary Sector like Wokingham Volunteer Centre for more informal support. The Arts and Culture Officer will discuss further with the Town Clerk.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The recommendations were considered and the following six resolutions made. It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was

**RESOLVED
30666**

to extend the contracts of the contracted providers, with the A&C Officer negotiating the fine detail in changes of provision and cost of each aspect.

**RESOLVED
30667**

It was proposed by Cllr A Fraser and seconded by Cllr M Fumagalli and it was

to request from F&P a 15% increase to the overall Fun Day budget to manage expected cost increases for the 2024 event.

**RESOLVED
30668**

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

to additionally request from F&P, as a lower priority, £1400 for an alternative or expansion to an existing ride to facilitate additional capacity.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30669**

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was to not reduce the timing of the event in 2024 but instead look for additional staffing resource (paid or volunteer) to assist during busy periods.

**RESOLVED
30670**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cornish and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was to request that the Arts & Culture Officer explore working with local SEN related organisations to improve the Fun Day with regards to neurodiverse children.

**RESOLVED
30671**

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was to no longer offer windmills and to look for more sustainable stickers.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

FUTURE EVENTS (Agenda Item 8)

The Vice Chair gave an overview of the process for looking at future projects and highlighted a number of things for the Committee to think about when considering possible future projects. Namely; limited resources, both financially and staff time, and a new Council starting a new term with a strategy to review.

It was suggested that the councillors may wish to meet in an informal brainstorming session over the summer to consider ideas for the meeting in September. This was agreed and the Vice Chair would arrange a date and time suitable for most. Ideas are also welcome to be shared over email.

ACTION: VICE CHAIR

The Arts & Culture Officer noted they would welcome concepts shared before September, time allowing, for a quick feasibility analysis.

One potential idea was shared for a 'Human Library'. There were also high level concepts noted that came out of the Mini Mayor project which will be shared with the Officer further.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 9)

- a) Cllr Fumagalli updated the Committee on the progress for Science with Schools. We have one speaker around food security but would need another. If any Councillors have any possible contacts for speakers please get in touch asap. Cllr Gurney indicated that she may be able to help.
- b) There were no specific items from the meeting to share. However it was noted that the Committee would value an Agenda Item at a future meeting to discuss Marketing with the Marketing and Comms Coordinator. Particularly with ways to market upcoming events at current events and SEO improvement of the website. It was requested to send through ideas and comments to the Arts and Culture Officer who can discuss with the Town Clerk and ensure they go to the relevant Officer for response.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

**RESOLVED
30672**

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

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted i.e. commercial and financial it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

PART II

PARTY IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 11)

The report was received and considered. There was significant discussion around the current financial climate and broad agreement with the principle of getting this booked in early if possible. The Committee were appreciative of the details supplied and reasoning from Yes Events on the cost increase, and the compromises able to be made. The recommendations were discussed with the following resolutions made

**RESOLVED
30673**

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

to extend Yes Events contract and request from F&P an increase to the Concert budget of £7245. Putting it at £66,902.

**RESOLVED
30674**

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was

to maintain the Party in the Park as a free event, on Elms Field. That finishes approx. 9pm with four acts.

**RESOLVED
30675**

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

to nominate Cllrs A Fraser and S Gurney to assist the Arts and Culture Officer and Town Clerk with choosing the final act line up from Yes Events suggestions.

**RESOLVED
30676**

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

to continue to ensure there is cultural, race and gender diversity within the act choices.

**RESOLVED
30677**

It was proposed by Cllr A Medhurst and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

to keep the disabled provision already in place for this event.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

The Committee also wished to engage with WBC and Census data to take a proactive approach to anticipating or identifying demographics who were not but could be better accommodated at this event. The Vice Chair indicated she had a contact to assist with this. It was also requested that consideration be made to advertising accommodations more widely, especially with any supporting organisations/charities.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

