

15th January 2024

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Arts and Culture Committee** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19.31 to 21:31

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr B Callender

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were apologies for absence from Cllr 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 Domingue and it was

**RESOLVED
30768**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 6th November 2023 (pages 16854 to 16857), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

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

Amendments to Committee Projects and Events document

Work continues to amend this document during the year, particularly in response to any strategic changes from Council.

Science with Schools consultation with Schools

Engagement with other secondary schools serving the town has not proved fruitful as yet. On the matter of timing, the engaged schools were happy with the current timing or very open to alternatives as long as it wasn't the Summer Term. Consultation is complete.

Human Library

The Officer is currently concentrating on February events and planning for Spring/Summer events. Work is yet to start.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st December 2023 was received.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



NEW COUNCIL STRATEGY (Agenda Item 7)

Councillors discussed a selection of the Arts and Culture events and how they interact with the four principles of the new strategy.

Due to constraints on time Sunny Saturday's was not able to be looked at but would be at the next Working Party for this event. Councillors are welcome to attend or send in notes.

The information created at the meeting will be written up and made available to Councillors as a backing paper for a future meeting.

ACTION ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

BOOK FESTIVAL (Agenda Item 8)

The Officer was thanked for the report. It was requested to explore engaging with Waterstones to see how they could add to the event, alongside the independent bookseller. It was also requested to look further at youth engagement to try to see why the 7 to 11 year olds were harder to engage with. Councillors with children of that age were asked to talk to their children and it was suggested liaising with the junior schools for feedback via school councils.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
AND ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

With regards to the recommendations, the following were resolved upon:

**RESOLVED
30769**

It was proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Cornish and it was to maintain a ticket price at £3 a seat.

**RESOLVED
30770**

It was proposed by Cllr Medhurst and seconded by Cllr Fraser and it was to maintain the budget at £7800 and the income target at £3600.

**RESOLVED
30771**

It was proposed by Cllr Domingue and seconded by Cllr Callender and it was to maintain the Town Hall offer to just the Sunday.

DRESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE (Agenda Item 9)

The Officer was thanked for the report. The Committee discussed the event and noted that for such poor weather we had very good attendance. It was noted that it would be useful to have an extra pair of hands to get the schools ready to go up.

It was also suggested increasing the stage height, however that would come at an increase in cost, and that the sound struggled to reach the back of the crowd. The Officer had passed on immediate feedback after the event about some obvious challenges on the night. When looking to quote for this work for 2024 this new feedback would be looked at.

SUNNY SATURDAYS (Agenda Item 10)

The notes from the Working Party Meetings were received. The status of the enquiry with the possible local partner was requested. This has been moved

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



along but the individual to talk to was currently out of the country. However we now have a route into the proper person to engage with further.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

- a) It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday 18th May 2024. The Town Clerk would appreciate it if all Councillors could attend for some portion of the day. It was also noted that a Working Party would be being set up to help shape the event.
- b) There were no items for Marketing.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

