

11th March 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 21:21

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr B Callender

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

Cllr A Jones

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A Medhurst.

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 Cornish and seconded by Cllr S Gurney and it was

**RESOLVED
30788**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 15th January 2024 (pages 16899 to 16901), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 5th March 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.

Human Library

The Officer has reinitiated contact to move this on asap. The direct contact has since left the organisation but a number of other contacts were copied in. A Councillor noted that they would be in the vicinity to see a Human Library event in person and would report back.

Book Festival Feedback from 7 – 11 year olds

Discussions on challenges for this age group has been discussed with Book Festival and school contacts, and staff with children of that age. No unexpected challenges have been uncovered. Feedback still to be achieved from School Councils and Councillors with children of that age.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



Sunny Saturdays Working Party

There has not been a meeting of the Working Party since last Committee meeting. The Arts and Culture Officer and Vice Chair are due to meet with the prospective partner and will be feeding back to the Working Party in March.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st January 2024 was received.

NEW COUNCIL STRATEGY (Agenda Item 7)

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

The potential for Arts and Culture events to be supplemented by sponsorship was discussed. It was noted that Strategy are looking into sponsorship as a wider exercise for the whole Town Council, and the Town Clerk may be best placed at the moment to update the Chair on this at this time.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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

ACTION ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

TOWN HALL TABLETOP TAKEOVER (Agenda Item 8)

The Officer was thanked for the report. Councillors were very happy with how the event went and would be keen to continue to support it.

FUN DAY REQUESTS (Agenda Item 9)

Two requests for stalls at the Fun Day that would be more of a commercial nature were discussed. The Chair reminded Councillors on the overarching ethos of the Fun Day as a low monetary pressure event, and the merits and concerns of both proposals were discussed.

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

**RESOLVED
30789**

to trial the pic and mix sweet stall under the conditions of having the option for set priced prepackaged sweets, or a way to ensure parents have a greater knowledge in advance of the kind of costs they would be committing to. It was noted that as Wokingham Town Council may not have sufficient understanding of the logistics behind such an enterprise, that if further discussion was needed, subsequent decisions would be delegated to the Arts and Culture Officer, alongside the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee.
(six votes in favour, one abstention)

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

**RESOLVED
30790**

unanimously to accept the lemonade stall request. Councillors requested that a query be submitted to encourage sustainable packaging if at all possible, to reduce waste produced.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



Both stalls would be required to, in lieu of a pitch fee, have a fee related to a percentage of their takings at the end of the event. In line with the Ice Cream vendor's agreement.

LUNAR NEW YEAR (Agenda Item 10)

Councillors were given the opportunity, in advance of the report being written, to add their feedback about the Lunar New Year event. All feedback received aligned to that already received. A report will be ready for next meeting with suggestions for improvements and costs. It is worth noting how valued the performers, stall holders and community groups from the Hong Kong and East Asian communities felt.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

- a) Cllrs asked if an item on advertising could be added to a future Agenda. The Arts and Culture Officer would take that back to the Town Clerk and reminded Councillors that they were welcome to utilise the expertise of the Marketing Coordinator on email.
- b) There were no items for immediate Marketing.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

