

10th June 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 20:51

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr B Callender

Councillors: S Cornish, P Cunnington, A Domingue, A Fraser, M Gee, A Jones and M Malvern.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were apologies for absence from Cllr M Fumagalli.

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.

Cllr Cunnington joined the meeting.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

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

**RESOLVED
30857**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 11th March 2024 (pages 16923 to 16925), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record. A vote was taken, with six in favour and two abstaining.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 4th June was received and considered.

Human Library

To be discussed under Agenda Item:9

Book Festival Feedback from 7 – 11 year olds

Discussions on challenges for this age group have 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. Feedback to still be looked for, however it may no longer be in time to inform changes to this years event.

Sunny Saturdays Working Party

To be discussed under Agenda Item: 8

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 30th April 2024 was received.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



The anomaly with the Fun Day line was explained due to deposits of the larger elements of the event, that were paid in the previous financial year, showing as paid and not automatically being removed from commitments. Thus giving the appearance of an overspend. The Arts and Culture Officer and Finance were working through them manually to correct.

UPDATE ON ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS (Agenda Item 7)

The Officer was thanked for the comprehensive document outlining each of the Committee's events. It was noted that the in-depth discussion regarding current and new events would take place at the next meeting, however the following was raised for consideration.

At the Annual Town Meeting, A passing resident who is also a teacher praised Theatre in the Park as a concept, but suggested that it should happen during term time/school time. Unfortunately many of the individuals who can deliver the theatre productions are also in the teaching industry and can only offer time outside of school.

- Consideration should be made over the ongoing impact events have on Council resources, including budget and officer time.
- The Committee may wish to consider adding no new events and instead focus on existing events. Or even maximising on certain events, which are perhaps bigger impact, showcase events, and removing less impactful events
- Discussion was had about the criteria to measure events which might include; officer time, budget, value for money, cost per head, impact on residents and other quantitative and qualitative considerations.

It was requested that the Arts and Culture Officer meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to draft a proposed means of scoring and present it at the next meeting.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

SUNNY SATURDAYS (Agenda Item 8)

The update about Sunny Saturdays Working Party was presented. Councillors were content with the current position. The event was discussed in relation to the four priorities from the vision exercise. The Arts and Culture Officer will update the events document to reflect that discussion.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

HUMAN LIBRARY (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee's work around the Human Library concept was revisited to update new members. Due to an administrative error, the funding request for this event did not make it at the proper point to the F&P meeting. The Officer requested for the Committee to make a decision as to where they would like to source the funds, following on from the suggestion that it might be possible to utilise underspend from a existing budget line.

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was

**RESOLVED
30858**

to request from F&P £250 in year to support the next step in the Human Library project.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



A vote was taken with seven in favour and one abstention.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 10)

- a) There were no information items raised
- b) There were no items for immediate marketing.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 11)

It was proposed by Cllr P Cunnington and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was

**RESOLVED
30859**

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

A vote was taken and it was unanimous

LUNAR NEW YEAR (Agenda Item 12)

The report concerning the February 2024 event was received and considered.

It was requested to gather multiple quotes when going out for the road closure aspect of the provision. It was noted that there was an error with the provision budgeting within the report. As it may impact the Committee's decision it was requested to double check the figures and working, and come back next meeting with a revised document before any funding decision could be made.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

**RESOLVED
30860**

that the Committee would wish to continue with this event. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and it was seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was

**RESOLVED
30861**

to raise the food stall fee to £50 a pitch. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

CHAIR

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____

