

15th July 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 21:24

PRESENT

Vice Chair: Cllr A Domingue

Councillors: S Cornish, P Cunnington, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, 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 B Callender.

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 A Jones and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was

**RESOLVED
30885**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 10th June 2024 (pages 16993 to 16995), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record. A vote was taken, which was unanimous in favour.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 9th July was received and considered.

Human Library

Funding has been approved by F&P. The Arts and Culture Officer to fill in application and continue with the project.

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, English leads and/or school librarians, and Councillors with children of that age. Feedback to still be looked for, however it is looking to inform future years not 2024's event.

Sunny Saturdays Working Party

It has been agreed that this will pause while the events are taking place.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

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

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CONSIDERATION OF EVENTS (Agenda Item 7)

The Officer was thanked for the comprehensive document outlining time pressures on events and Officer workload.

The scoring criteria was well received although it was noted that more work to assist Councillors with scoring and understanding pre populated scores would be of benefit. The scoring criteria and system presented was more thorough than anticipated.

Some Councillors were keen to have more detail on overtime costs and were encouraged to liaise directly to the Town Clerk as the Officer will not have that level of detail as it relates to personnel.

For next steps the Officer will look to work with Councillors and the Town Clerk to refine the system further and add to the explanatory notes to assist with scoring. Refinement should consider how the Council's values might tie into the scoring system.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

Councillors are requested between publishing of a revised scoring system and the meeting date in September to score two events as a test of the system. The events to test will be Chalk About It and Fun Day.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

FUTURE EVENTS (Agenda Item 8)

The following events were suggested for consideration and further investigation.

1. To utilise an artist contact of a Councillor to potentially paint or lead school groups to **paint utility cabinets**. The two large ones near the Station were of particular interest.
2. **A Diwali/Visakhi celebration**. Could we engage with Bombay Story or other groups to advise on the event? It was noted we aren't able to have fireworks at events we organise currently as our insurance does not cover it. It was requested to find out what might be needed to allow for it.
3. Changes and Improvements to **Dressing the Christmas Tree**. The Committee requested using a brass band over the choral group. They also suggested what might be possible to make more of this event and widen it's appeal outside the schools. Possibly investigating a Christmas Market.
4. It was further requested that when planning event or changes to existing events consideration of other groups who might be excluded be considered. The Arts and Culture Officer welcomed Councillors to highlight any particular group that might need further thought when they became aware of them.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

FUN DAY (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee thanked the Officer for the report on the Fun Day. The recommendations were discussed. The idea from providers to reduce the event

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public duration from 6 hours to 5, to be more in line with other local events was discussed but it was felt that 6 hours was needed due to the popularity of the event. Councillors would not support reducing the event duration. If Officers were finding the overtime overly taxing, the option to take time off in lieu should be considered by the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED
30886**

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was to extend the contracts for the contracted providers for the Wokingham Children's Fun Day. With the Arts and Culture Officer managing the fine detail on an changes in provision and fee for them. A vote was taken and it was unanimous in favour.

**RESOLVED
30887**

It was proposed by Cllr A Fraser and seconded by Cllr P Cunnington and it was to request the Arts and Culture Officer commit time to exploring options for additional food offers at the event. With a focus on adding to choice rather than volume. A vote was taken and it was 5 to 3 in favour.

**RESOLVED
30888**

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was to request from F&P a 5% increase to the current event budget. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and one abstention.

**RESOLVED
30889**

It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr S Cornish and it was to request from F&P an additional £500 to support increased face painting provision. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and one abstention.

This brings the total requested budget of the Fun Day to £19,505.

ACTIONS: ARTS AND CULTRE OFFICER AND RFO

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)

**RESOLVED
30890**

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

PARTY IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 12)

The report considering the Party in the Park 2024 was received and considered. Councillors were not satisfied with the response regarding the toilets from the event provider. The Officer was instructed to push back with the event provider around their choice of subcontractor and more explanation as to why Party in the

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Park toilets were insufficient when Councillors experience of larger events with similar toilet provision did not have these capacity challenges.

**RESOLVED
30891** It was proposed by Cllr M Fumagalli and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was to maintain the existing event provider and request from F&P an increase to the Party in the Park budget taking it to £73,640. This budget includes the event providers fee and budget for sundry support. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and one abstention.

**RESOLVED
30892** It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr M Gee and it was to retain the event as a free event, on Elms Field that finishes at approximately 9pm with 4 acts. In 2025 this event will be on Saturday 7th June. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

**RESOLVED
30893** It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr A Fraser and it was to nominate Councillors P Cunnington and B Callender to join Officers in making act choices for this event. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

**RESOLVED
30894** It was proposed by Cllr P Cunnington and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was to continue to ensure there is cultural, race and gender diversity within act choices. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

**RESOLVED
30895** It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr A Jones and it was to keep the disabled provision. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.
ACTIONS: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND RFO

LUNAR NEW YEAR (Agenda Item 13)

The report was received and considered. It was noted that the increase was less than anticipated. It was noted that this might be because of an underspend on this year's event due to financial pressure. With regards to the proposed screen addition Councillors agreed that at this time it didn't seem a proportional addition.

**RESOLVED
30896** It was proposed by Cllr M Malvern and seconded by Cllr M Gee and it was to increase the provision of the event. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

**RESOLVED
30897** It was proposed by Cllr S Cornish and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was to request from F&P an increase to the budget taking it to a total of £11,950. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and one abstention.
ACTIONS: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND RFO

CHAIR

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