

# 02<sup>nd</sup> September 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 20:40

## **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.

## **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)**

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

**RESOLVED  
30909**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (pages 17021 to 17024), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record. A vote was taken, which was 7 in favour with 1 abstention.

## **MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)**

The Monitoring Report dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 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.

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



### **Painting Utility Cabinets**

Meeting to be arranged between Amenities Officer, Cllr Domingue and A&C Officer to utilise experience and knowledge around the concept.

### **Diwali/Visakhi Celebration**

We are starting to build a cultural advisory group to help with planning such an event.

### **Changes to Dressing the Christmas Tree**

We have talked to St Sebastian Wokingham Band about performing at the event this year. There would be an additional strain on the budget to do this. Responses are being awaited for planning changes beyond 2024.

### **COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)**

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 was received.

### **SCORING SYSTEM DISCUSSION (Agenda Item 7)**

The Officer was thanked for the detailed scoring system.

Councillors discussed and made observations about the scoring system and what it had revealed regarding the two test events. The Arts and Culture Officer encouraged Councillors to submit those observations via email to assist with upcoming reports and ongoing work around the scoring system.

It was decided to utilise the expertise of Councillors Cunningham, Gee and Callender, alongside the Arts and Culture Officer, to improve the functionality of the scoring system from this base example. Including automating aspects of it, looking at ways to visualise the data and how we might add weighting to categories.

What categories may need weighting was also worth discussion although the determination would need to be agreed by Committee at a later date.

Councillors also considered if there should be a 'risk' category added that may cover aspects that could cancel an event; including poor weather, lack of support/partner buy in etc

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER AND COUNCILLORS**

### **THEATRE IN THE PARK (Agenda Item 8)**

The Committee were very pleased that the Theatre in the Park event this year was so successful.

They agreed that a play choice similar to this year's would be preferable. Something simple and well known. The feedback from this year's event should be utilised to improve the event.

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

**RESOLVED  
30910**

that the Theatre in the Park contract with Bart Lee Theatre should be extended and to request from F&P an increase in line with CPI.

**ACTIONS: ARTS AND CULTRE OFFICER AND RFO**

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 10)**

- a) It was suggested to investigate a suitable PA system for Council usage, eliminating the need for certain size events to hire one. Which may save money in the long run. Cllr Cunnington offered to liaise with Officers about possible events/activities that might benefit from the provision and suggest suitable options.

**ACTION: CLLR CUNNINGTON**

- b) There were no items for immediate marketing.

**CHAIR**

CHAIR'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

