

# 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Arts and Culture Committee** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19.30 to 20:15

## **PRESENT**

Chair: Cllr B Callender

Councillors: S Cornish, A Domingue, 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 P Cunnington.

## **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 B Callender and seconded by Cllr A Jones and it was

**RESOLVED  
30983**

that the Minutes of Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (pages 17082 to 17085), copy attached, be received as a true and correct record. A vote was taken, which was unanimous.

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

The Monitoring Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> January was received and considered.

### **Human Library**

The application was filled in in September we are now awaiting results of the application.

### **Book Festival Feedback from 7 – 11 year olds**

Feedback has been pursued but nothing coming back. Suggest feedback continues to be pursued as part of the normal feedback process. Cllr Callender suggested he try to help engage more with the schools over this and other projects to open lines of communication.

**ACTION: CLLR CALLENDER**

### **Painting Utility Cabinets**

Information about the proposed scope of work and contacts with site owners able to grant permission for work are being pursued to try to move the project along. Councillors were reminded that there was no budget in place for this due to a lack of workable plan at budget setting.

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



### **PA System for the Council**

This suggestion went to F&P and is moving through the usual budget procedure. Suggest to remove this item as outside of A&C remit for now.

### **Scoring System**

The Scoring System is complete for now. Councillors agree it should be considered a working document where suggestions for refinement come from using it for a while before considering changes and any weighting. Cllrs Callender and Gee offered to help fix some of the automation issues and refine presentation of data. Colours used need to be amended to be colourblind friendly.

**ACTION: CLLRS CALLENDER AND GEE**

### **Teens Tabletop**

Work was to begin on this shortly by engaging with the schools. Existing providers for the normal Tabletop Takeover were interested in potentially supporting it.

### **Outreach funding for Book Festival 2026**

We will no longer have Outreach funding for the Book Festival in 2026. Councillors were requested to consider options for possible sponsors for this activity in 2026. Cllr Callender suggested he would connect with More Arts directly.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

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

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

### **CHRISTMAS MUSIC (Agenda Item 7)**

Councillors discussed the Christmas music event, sharing their personal knowledge of attending it. It was felt that just moving the event from one stretched Officer to another was not solving the challenge of taking on an additional event at an already busy time of year.

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

**RESOLVED  
30984**

to not accept Civic's suggestion for Arts and Culture to run the event. The Committee would suggest that the event is cancelled but that the Mayor's charity be given a free room booking in the year which they could use for a fundraising event. The vote was unanimous.

### **DRESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE (Agenda Item 8)**

A report updating the committee on the December 2024 Dressing the Christmas Tree event was received and considered. The Committee agreed with the recommendations to make no major changes to this event at this time that would affect the budget and to request the A&C Officer engage more with the schools about the event and especially relating to any feedback suggested to improve the event that might affect their experience before implementing it.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

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



### **SCIENCE WITH SCHOOLS (Agenda Item 9)**

The Committee received and considered the Science with Schools report. Councillors who had attended and helped with the organisation added their feedback to the concept. Challenges around engaging with schools were raised. It was also asked if it needed to be STEM subjects. The Arts and Culture Officer indicated that they could consider doing it outside of STEM however their link was with the Science teachers at the schools so a new teaching link would need to be made which may add to the challenge.

**RESOLVED  
30985**

It was proposed by Cllr Callender and seconded by Cllr Domingue and it was to continue to retain this activity. The vote was unanimous.

**RESOLVED  
30986**

It was proposed by Cllr Gee and seconded by Cllr Domingue and it was leave the organisation and consideration of topic with the schools in conversation with the Officer. The vote was unanimous.

Councillors requested that once school feedback on the project's subject had been achieved that the Arts and Culture Officer pass that on to all Councillors for any contacts they might have who could be an option as a speaker.

**ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER**

### **COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 10)**

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

**CHAIR**

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

