**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held virtually on**

**Monday 30 November 2020 at 7.30pm**

# Present

# The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Councillors Jo Day (Chairperson); Sue Farrant; Gary Norman; Elizabeth O’Keeffe; Sarah Slack; Martha Vickers (substitute).

**Officer present:**

Elisa Adams, Civic Manager

**35. Apologies for absence**

Apologies: Councillor Billy Drummond

Absent: Councillor Steve Masters

**36. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

The Civic Manager declared that Councillor Martha Vickers is also a Member of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow him to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

Councillors Sue Farrant and Elizabeth O’Keeffe declared they are both involved as volunteers with The Corn Exchange, with a relevant agenda item to be discussed later in the meeting.

**37. Minutes**

**37.1**

Amendment: to standardise the wording of ‘Town Trail’ rather than ‘Art Trail’ as consistency is required throughout to avoid confusion.

**Proposed:** Councillor Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 7th September 2020, with the amendment, be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

**37.2 Actions from previous meeting**

Outcomes to be discussed through relevant agenda items.

**38. Questions and petitions from members of the public**

There were none.

# 39. Members’ questions and petitions

There were none.

**40. Newbury & District Arts Association**

A report was received from the Newbury & District Arts Association reflecting on their activities from the past year, and the struggles that the industry has faced due to Covid-19.

The report was noted and Council wish Newbury & District Arts Association well for the future and continue to support them in their future endeavours.

**41. Newbury Art Trail**

Following a brief discussion of the minutes, it was agreed going forward that this item would now be referred to as the Newbury Town Trail, providing inclusivity beyond Art and extending to other creative mediums and heritage within the town.

**Proposed:** Cllr Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Cllr Martin Colston

**Resolved:** A recommendation will be made to the Planning and Highways Committee that any proposals for revitalising the Town Centre should consider public art which reflects the ‘Flow’ concept of the Town Council’s art trail.

Following an amendment to the wording, the following resolution was approved:

**Proposed:** Cllr Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Cllr Olivia Lewis

**Resolved:** To recommend that the Town Council writes to West Berkshire District Council regarding the local plan review requesting that any large development in the Newbury settlement area *should* provide a piece of public art in Newbury and that the pieces should reflect the concept of ‘flow’.

**42. Newbury Town Civic Awards**

The Civic Manager presented contingency plans for the Newbury Town Civic Awards and arrangements for the pin-badge design competition for the new Community Champions Award.

**Proposed:** Cllr Jo Day

**Seconded:** Cllr Gary Norman

**Resolved:** That arrangements were approved for the 2021 Newbury Town Civic Awards.

**43. Heritage Open Day 2020**

The Civic Manager reported on the outcomes of this year’s Heritage Open Day event. While the outcomes of the work were disappointing and it was agreed that more time needed to be put into the event in the future, with the hope that the Town Hall would be back open for visitors in September 2021.

Councillors suggested local networks to see if they would be interested in being involved and provided further suggestions of what could be incorporated in the future, both if the Town Hall is open to visitors or not. The Civic Manager noted these ideas.

**44. Remembrance Sunday 2020**

The Civic Manager reported on the outcomes of this year’s Remembrance Sunday event and the challenges that came with it with sudden changes regarding National Lockdown.

The Committee thanked the Civic Manger for her hard work in arranging this year’s event.

**45. Local Democracy Working Group**

**45.1** The Chairperson reported on the minutes of the last two meetings of the Local Democracy Working Group which fed into the report provided regarding engaging with young people.

Councillor Gary Norman further reported on the developments members of the Local Democracy Working Group made on their findings with Berkshire Youth and Community United to engage youth with the Council.

**Proposed**: Cllr Martha Vickers

**Seconded**: Cllr Martin Colston

**Resolved**: Arrangements for engaging with young people were approved. An online survey will be set up to capture the views and areas of interest for young people living in Newbury, these results will be analysed and then an online youth event will be arranged and implemented with a theme based off the results of this survey.

**45.2** The Local Democracy Working Group Terms of Reference were presented to the Committee, however following discussions of engaging young people the committee had queries about the wording of it. It was also suggested that the Working Group considered including scope to extend activities beyond schools and young people.

The approval of recommendations to the Terms of Reference failed to gain support.

It was agreed that these would be reviewed at a Local Democracy Working Group Meeting in January to bring to the next Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee Meeting in March 2021.

**46. The Corn Exchange Learning Centre**

After a long discussion, while Councillors are in agreement that the arts sector has suffered due to Covid and that we should be supporting the Corn Exchange; it may not be the right route to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee that the Corn Exchange have their own budget line to support their Learning Centre Projects, or if we will have the full amount to support them.

There was also discussions about whether our funding would support the Town Council strategy objectives to be a more inclusive town, and if it would be possible for the Corn Exchange to put conditions in their proposal to demonstrate their support of our Strategy, which may be difficult to control. An alternative proposal was considered:

**Proposed:** Cllr Gary Norman

**Seconded:** Cllr Martin Colston

**Resolved:** Having considered the proposal, the committee recommends that it would be more appropriate for the Corn Exchange to apply for funding through our small grants system.

**47. Council Strategy**

It was recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee should consider further provisions for youth engagement to be emphasised throughout the Council Strategy. This will provide further scope to carry out activities to engage young people with the Town Council beyond the schools’ presentations and the Youth Council.

**48. Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Budget 2021/22**

It was proposed that a budget of £500 for Art on the Park be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee.

**Proposed**: Cllr Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Cllr Gary Norman

**Resolved:** That Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee recommends £500, to cover provisions for the revival of Art On The Park in Summer 2021, for the Policy and Resources Committee to consider.

**49. Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community**

The Civic Manager let the Committee know that 63 letters of congratulations had been sent out to members of the community since the last meeting in September.

The Committee thanked the Civic Manager and the Mayor for their continued work on this.

**50. Civic Events**

1. The information regarding Civic events held since the last meeting of this committee was received and noted.
2. The information relating to future Civic Events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee. Future events include:

* Mayor’s Christmas Raffle – throughout December raising money for the Mayor’s Benevolent Fund. The Civic Manager encouraged all to share with their networks and take part.
* Launch of the Civic Awards 2021 – 27th January 2021
* Mayor’s Charity Gala Fundraiser in collaboration with Time To Talk – 27th February 2021

1. Potential future events or activities:

Ideas were discussed for a post-covid celebratory event to take place in Victoria Park when our communities can come together again.

An online quiz fundraiser was pitched as a fundraising idea. The Civic Manager will look further into the logistics of hosting this online and how funds would be collected.

**51. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee Meetings**

It was agreed that the following would be added to the Forward Working Programme for the next March meeting:

* Art on the Park
* Local Democracy Working Group Terms of Reference
* Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event planning (June 2022)

The Civic Manager also said that plans for Mayor Making would be discussed in March.

**There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.**

**Chairperson: Date:**