

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2020 AT THE TOWN HALL PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors David Brunson, Jennifer McAllister, Louisa Radice and Amanda Stevens.

Sue Staddon (Leamington International Twinning Society).

57. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N.Atwal, J. Boulton, W. Bryce and A. Evans.

58. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A. Stevens declared a non-pecuniary interest in the first item of business as a member of the Leamington International Twinning Society.

59. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from Members of the Public.

60. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

Sue Staddon was welcomed to the meeting.

She explained that John Mather, who had been Chairman of LITS for many years, had now resigned and had been succeeded by Karen McQueen. The Committee was read a statement from Ms McQueen which explained that the planned exchange visit to the twin town of Sceaux in April had now been cancelled due to the current Coronavirus pandemic. The intended visit to Leamington by Bruhl Twinning Society in October was to be reviewed in due course. It was noted that a letter of support had been sent by the Mayor to the Mayor of Sceaux at this difficult time. A similar letter had also been sent to the Mayor of Bruhl.

Particular thanks were paid to John Mather who was retiring after many years as Chairman of LITS. The Committee acknowledged the significant contribution that he had made to Twinning and the continued association with Leamington's twin towns over many years.

Sue Staddon was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

61. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 16th January, 2019 (Report No.5) are confirmed as a correct record.

It was noted that the emerging Coronavirus emergency would have significant implications for the many community and voluntary groups in the Town. A question was raised as to the availability of funding through the Council's Community Grant Fund which ordinarily did not support start-up groups. The Town Clerk confirmed that it was a condition of the application process that applicants were formally constituted and able to provide evidence of financial stability but that the Committee would have the final say as to whether an application was supported.

RESOLVED that the position in relation to Community Grants continues to be reviewed in the light of the emerging circumstances.

62. **COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No 7) setting out the specific objectives agreed by the Council which now needed to be translated into smart performance targets and measures.

The Committee noted that the objectives would need further analysis and this should be undertaken after a period of review and itemised for discussion at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the Report is deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

63. **LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM**

The Town Clerk reported that the Heart of England in Bloom Competition for 2020 had been cancelled due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. He confirmed that where practicable and in accordance with Government safety guidelines, it was hoped that a limited number of local activities in support of Leamington in Bloom would be held.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

64. **VE/VJ Day – 8th MAY 2020**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report 9) regarding the commemorative event to be held on 8th May, 2020 to commemorate the anniversary of VE/VJ day. He confirmed that the organiser was awaiting an announcement from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport as to whether this national commemoration would proceed, though it appeared highly unlikely in the current circumstances.

A further report would be made to the Committee as soon as a Government announcement is made.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

65. **BLUE PLAQUES**

Consideration was given to. the Minutes of the last meeting of the Blue Plaque Group held on 25th February (Report No. 10).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Blue Plaque Group and the actions therein are noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.45 pm.