

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD  
ON 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors Jennifer McAllister, Judith Clarke, Louisa Radice, Amanda Stevens, Julija Boulton, Mubarik Chowdry and Will Bryce.

Karen McQueen (Chair of Leamington International Twinning Society) and Katherine Geddes (Democratic Support Officer)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs David Brunson and Jade McGhee.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 2021/22**

Councillor David Brunson was nominated as Chair of the Cultural & Community Committee 2021/22 by Councillor McAllister and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

There were no other nominations and Councillor Brunson was duly elected Chair of the Cultural & Community Committee 2021/22.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 2021/22**

Councillor Jennifer McAllister was nominated as Vice-chair of the Cultural & Community Committee 2021/22 by Councillor Chowdry and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

Councillor Will Bryce was also nominated as Vice-chair of the Cultural & Community Committee 2021/22 by Councillor Radice and seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Discussion then took place around whether a member could vote for themselves when nominated by another member. The DSO reminded members that this had happened on the Town Council's Staffing Committee in May 2020 with the approval of the previous Town Clerk. However, no satisfactory outcome to this question could be attained so it was agreed that Councillor McAllister would chair this meeting as the current Vice-chair and the issue would be resolved at the next meeting of this Committee following the seeking of further advice on the matter.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Stevens declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Town Council representative on Leamington International Twinning Society and on Leamington in Bloom. Councillor McAllister declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Town Council representative on the Leamington Blue Plaques Group.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from Members of the public

6. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

Karen McQueen (Chair of the Leamington International Twinning Society) was welcomed to the meeting and gave a verbal update on the work/activities of the group:

- LITS members have been consulted on whether they wish to see exchange visits go ahead in the remainder of 2021 – 19 responses – 16 voted to postpone and 3 were unsure. That confirms there is no appetite for in-person visits this year.
- Committee to meet and formally decide based on this outcome and ongoing discussions in Committee.
- LITS intending to have a tripartite visit in Spring 2022 involving Leamington, Bruhl and Sceaux, possibly at an Oxford college which can provide suitable accommodation.
- Draft plans to visit Sceaux in April 2022 and Bruhl to come to Leamington in October 2022.
- Continuing to hold online meetings with all three Twinning groups involved on a variety of topics and also to hold socially distanced meet ups in Jephson Gardens for those members of LITS who wish to do so.

**RESOLVED** that the Update is received and noted.

Karen McQueen was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 6:22pm.

7. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) To note further progress on requests for information on those grant applications deferred on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

1. Central England Lipreading Support Trust – CELST were unable to go ahead with their project as planned to date due to the unavailability of the Brunswick Hub which is their preferred location for the lipreading courses. The funding had not been released and the organisation was asked to re-apply in this round of grant funding.
2. Arts Uplift CIC – the creative writing/film making workshops at Augusta House had begun and five had been delivered so far. The number of residents had fallen lately so it was planned to deliver the final three sessions in September when it was felt there would be more participants available to attend.
3. Leamington Poetry Festival - the festival was re-scheduled for July 2021 but the organisers did not feel confident in the safe environment for public events so have postponed it again until October 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> this year. They are also planning to host a poetry day at Art in the Park as an extension of the festival.
4. Warwickshire Open Studios - Leamington Spa Art Gallery have agreed to host an exhibition of their artists to celebrate their 20th anniversary and this will take place October 2021 until early January 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the updates on these grant applications is noted.

9. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Consideration was given to a schedule of applications for grants under the Community Grant Fund. Individual applications had been uploaded to the Council website and were considered by the Committee prior to the meeting. Following consideration of the applications it was

**RESOLVED** that the following Grants are approved:-

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Sydenham Community Club	Repairs to seating and ceiling in function room to improve viability of venue hire and useability for the community	£2000	£0 – further information requested and more detailed financial records
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust Charity	Provision of furnishing for a new quiet room at Leamington Spa hospital	£2000	£2000
Milverton Primary School PTA	Creation of wall murals on playground shelters/guttering and downpipe replacement	£1850	£1850
Helping Hands	Training costs for a course for vulnerable women to move into employment	£2000	£2000
Sydenham Neighbourhood Initiatives	Print of a cookbook created by local residents and users of the centre	£2000	£1000
PBC Foundation	Print and distribution of quarterly newsletters over 1 year for 25 PBC sufferers who live in Leamington	£480	£480
Leamington RUFC	Contribution to cost of ride-on mower	£1800	£1300
CELST	Funding for one ten-week lipreading course	£1450	£1450
			<b>TOTAL</b>
			£10,080.00

10. **CREATIVE QUARTER UPDATE**

CDP have submitted the planning application for Spencer Yard and the United Reform Church to Warwick District Council and it is due for consideration at the WDC Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. CDP are also currently working up massing/design options for Court St and their architects are due to share these with CDP by the end of June. A Stakeholder Forum is due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July to look at these options and a project brief in detail.

Project Board is meeting regularly chaired by Andrew Day and attended by Cllr Rasmussen as the Town Council representative.

**RESOLVED** that the verbal update is noted

11. **BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE**

An update was provided to members on the current activities of the Blue Plaques Group.

- One Blue Plaque has been ordered and delivered to the Town Hall for Eddie Hapgood – this will be installed at the relevant property on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to be followed by a short reception in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall (Cllr McAllister to attend as Town Council representative on the Blue Plaques Group).
- Wording and location of the Special Interest Plaque for Woodbine St Studios has been agreed. The owner of the property is funding the associated costs for this plaque and is seeking comparative quotes for scaffolding to enable the plaque to be erected in her preferred location. Once this is determined, the Plaque will be ordered.
- Proposed wording and location of a Blue Plaque to Margaret Maitland Fowler needs to be agreed with the owner of the property on Bath Street. A Listed Building Consent application would then need to be completed and submitted to Warwick District Council.
- The owner of 23 St Mary's Crescent will be contacted for their consent to have a Blue Plaque for Eleanor Doorly on their property. Wording and location to be agreed.
- The owner of 17 Claremont Road will be contacted for their consent to have a Blue Plaque for Sir John Hicks on their property. Wording and location to be agreed.
- Investigations are ongoing into the possibility of a Special Interest Plaque on the Travelodge for the Camouflage Unit and for a Blue Plaque to Christopher and Janey Ironside at Lansdowne Circus.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted.

12. **LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM UPDATE**

An update was provided to members on the current activities of Leamington in Bloom:

- Floral Trains to be planted up on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June and put in situ at the Glasshouse in Jephson Gardens and at the Railway Station on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Official launch with the Mayor will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July by the Glasshouse with members of the group and Chiltern Rail. Will be in situ over the summer until mid-September.
- Annual Magazine being created by members of the group for publication by mid-July. Then copies to be handed out at events over the summer and be available from the libraries, Town Hall, local florists and nurseries, community centres and GP surgeries.
- Heart of England in Bloom competition not taking place in its usual format this year but rather we have been asked to submit the Portfolio alone for judging. This is being created at the moment for submission by 31<sup>st</sup> July.

- Four green grants of £200 each to be targeted at schools, youth centres, community centres and children’s centres in 2021 to be launched on 14<sup>th</sup> June with closing date of 24<sup>th</sup> September. Grants targeted at supporting new or ongoing green projects which promote sustainability and include/involve the community as much as possible.
- Stalls have been booked for LiB at Art in the Park (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> August) and at Ecofest (4<sup>th</sup> September).
- The theme for this year’s Photographic Competition is Seasons in Leamington with three prizes of £50, £35 and £20. Deadline is 16<sup>th</sup> August. Has been advertised via local press and social media. Winning and other best entries will form the 2022 Calendar.
- Shops, Pubs & Restaurants Competition will be judged by the group members between 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July on spot visits. Premises to be judged on overall impact on shopfront/side, impact on streetscene, planting and colour combinations, cultivation and maintenance and sustainability/wildlife interest.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted.

13. **STREET TREES**

A verbal update on the progress of the Street Tree planting programme was given:

- The WCC Forestry Section is now located at their new depot in Henley-in-Arden, having moved from Warwick.
- They are currently experiencing a high volume of reports/enquiries due in part to the increased interest in the outdoor environment. Currently recruiting staff to be able to deal with this situation. Once these new staff are in place, one of the Tree Officers will make contact with the Town Council to look at the Leamington Spa area in detail.
- There are streets/areas in Leamington Spa where street trees are coming due for their routine cyclical inspection (5 year cycle). The new Tree Officer for Leamington Spa will be responsible for this.
- There is a new “Tree Maintenance” page on the WCC website which provides more information and the ability for anyone to report tree issues.
- Trees list sent to the Forestry Section by the Town Council in November 2020 has been updated with notes as to progress (or otherwise) to date.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted and both the WCC Tree Maintenance weblink and the updated Trees list with notes be circulated to members.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7:38pm.

Signed .....

Date.....