



**THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**
TOWN HALL, PARADE,
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
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ROBERT NASH ACIS DMS
Clerk to the Town Council

1ST July, 2014

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee will be held in Meeting Room 5 at the Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa on **MONDAY 7th JULY, 2014 commencing at 6.30 pm.**

The business will be as set out below.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk to the Town Council

To:- Councillors H. Calver, J. Clarke, R. Copping, G. Dulay, S. Ingleby, Y. Moore, Mota Singh and A. Stevens.

Mr J. Mather, Tony Bass (Leamington International Twinning Society)

(All other Members of the Town Council – Agenda for information only)

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to declare any interest they may have in an item identified for discussion at the Meeting.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM**

To receive representations from Members of the public in accordance with Council Standing Orders.

6. Community Grant Award 2013 - 1st Sydenham Scout Group
The Meeting will be attended by Mr Neil Ward, Group Scout Leader, who will give the Committee a brief presentation on the outcome of a Community Grant awarded for new camping equipment in November 2012 in the sum of £1000.
7. TOWN TWINNING MATTERS
To consider matters relating to Town Twinning, including preparations for the anniversary celebrations with Bruhl over the period 4th-7th September.
Members of Leamington Twinning Society are in attendance for this item.
8. MINUTES
To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 2nd June 2014 (Report No. 8)
9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
To consider any matters arising.
10. WORLD WAR 1 COMMEMORATION PROPOSAL
To consider the attached Report submitted by County Councillor Matt Western. (Report No. 10)
11. COMMUNITY GRANTS
 - (i) Lillington Community Fun Day
Town Clerk to report correspondence with the organiser of the above event concerning an application to the Community Grant Fund for financial assistance.
 - (ii) Age UK -Warwickshire
To note and consider correspondence from Age UK announcing the cessation of its community transport scheme and the refund of £2,000 awarded by the Committee as a Community Grant in 2014.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2014 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors Mota Singh (Chair), Heather Calver, Balvinder Gill (substituting for Cllr Ingleby), John Knight (substituting for Cllr Clarke), Yvonne Moore, Mota Singh, and Amanda Stevens.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judith Clarke, Sue Ingleby, Roger Copping, Gurpreet Dulay and Mr John Mather

Also present: Tony Bass, (Leamington International Twinning Society).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of both the previous Chairman and Vice- Chairman it was agreed that the Committee should appoint a Chairman for this meeting solely.

RESOLVED that Councillor Singh is appointed Chairman of the Committee for the current meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Singh and Gill declared non – pecuniary interests as members of Leamington Twinning Society in the next item of business.

3. TOWN TWINNING MATTERS

(i) **Twining Working Group – 1st May 2014**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Twining Working Group held on 1st May and the recommendations therein are approved, subject to correction of the resolution of Minute 7 (ii) as follows:-

(ii) the provision of Walking tours of Leamington on the morning of Saturday 6th September are discussed with the Leamington Guild of Guides, including the option of translators being nominated by Leamington International Twinning Society;

(ii) **Other Twining Matters**

Bruhl-Sceaux 50th Anniversary

Tony Bass referred to indications from Bruhl that some input from Leamington was expected with regard to the provision of a stall outside Bruhl Town Hall. As the number of visitors from Leamington consisted of only three Councillors and four Members of LITS, it was agreed that it was not practicable to provide assistance on this occasion.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Mayor would be attending the Anniversary celebrations over the period 6th-8th June. It was suggested that the civic gifts which the Mayor would present to the Mayor of Bruhl and Mayor of Sceaux, should be supplemented with copies of a publication "History of Leamington Spa".

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk obtain copies of the publication "History of Leamington Spa" as items for the Mayor to present at Bruhl over the period 6th-8th June.

BRUHL INWARD VISIT – SEPTEMBER 2014

The Town Clerk reported progress since the last meeting as follows:-

- Walking tour – 6th September – An initial discussion with Leamington History Society had confirmed that a guided tour would take place, subject to the availability of guides
- Provision of vouchers for guests – A reply from the BID Company on the practicality of implementing gift vouchers for visitors to the Food and Drink Festival was awaited
- An invitation would be made to the Master of the Lord Leycester Hotel in the next few days
- The availability of the Church for the service at All Saints Parish Church had been confirmed following a meeting with the Parish priest. An invitation had also been extended to the Bishop of Warwick.
- Discussion of the events with the Editor of the Courier were planned for a date in July

Tony Bass confirmed that the maximum number of guests that could be accommodated by members of LITS was approximately 38 which would largely determine the size of the visiting Group.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 1st May 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

LOCATION OF DONATED BENCH

The Town Clerk reported on a recent meeting with an Officer of Warwick District Council regarding the placing of the bench donated by Bruhl Council to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Twinning Agreement between the two Towns. The Committee's original suggestion of the Pump Room Gardens could not be supported as this would

introduce a different design to the other traditional styled outdoor furniture now proposed as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

The Town Clerk circulated photographs of the proposed location at Jephson Gardens near the Clock Tower which currently was under- utilised and in need of re-planting. It was agreed that this would be a suitable location that would afford sufficient space for both the bench and a tree to commemorate the Twinning Anniversary.

RESOLVED that the proposed location at Jephson Gardens is approved in principle, subject to notification of other Members of the Committee and no objection being raised.

Tony Bass was thanked for his attendance and then left the Meeting.

6. LEAMINGTON GUIDED WALKS

Consideration was given to the programme of guided walks taking place around Leamington as part of the initiative delivered by Leamington History Group and the Town Council.

It was noted that the programme for 2014 would commence on 17th June and end on 24th September, comprising 36 days in total. The Mayor would be attending the official launch on 17th June to which all Members were cordially invited.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

7. COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee was reminded that the closing date for Community grant applications for the current financial year was 8th September 2014 and 26th January 2015. Appropriate information was now being circulated via the Town Council website, local media and other information points.

8. COMMUNITY GRANT MONITORING INFORMATION

RESOLVED that monitoring information in respect the following grants is noted:-

1st Sydenham Scout Group - £1,000

Motionhouse – Junior Dance performances - £1605

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.15 pm.

WW1 Commemoration – Proposal

“A Corner of a Foreign Field..” – Part 1: The Great Call-up

If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is for ever England. There shall be In that rich earth a richer dust concealed; A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware, Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam, A body of England's, breathing English air, Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away, A pulse in the eternal mind, no less Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given; Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day; And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness, In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Aims:

- To create an event and installation that makes people of all generations think about the First World War, its duration, its nature and for them to feel as if they are participating in something of real commemoration. The installation will last for a full 4 years and form the backdrop for events one hundred years later to mark 1914-18. Schools will be engaged through educational packs to be involved in the project and to participate in the 'Great Call-up' when young men from all over Royal Leamington Spa were mobilized.

Background :

- 549 servicemen from Royal Leamington Spa fell during the War with a further 9 shot following their desertion from the front line

Concept in brief :

- The project 'A Corner of a Foreign Field' draws on the powerful lines of Rupert Brooke's poem, 'The Soldier', written in 1914.
- Most wars are fought over the possession of land or resource. The frontiers themselves become representative of the 'theatre of war', in this case the Western Front. In WW1, it was the trenches that came to represent the Front and its ebb and flow.
- It is a fact that WW1 saw very little movement in the 'lines' held by either side; despite 4 years of huge losses of human life, nothing was gained. It was a war of attrition and the futility of the conflict became symbolized by the trenches from where the opposing armies lived, slept, fought and died.
- 549+9 children (aged 11-13) from the town would represent those that fought, not simply those that died.
- Schools will be engaged to get involved in this 'living history' project whereby the children adopt the identity of a soldier. The schools will be provided with support

materials including copies of letters from Leamington soldiers, front pages from the local papers etc and direction to help in making this project work.

- It is expected that the children would undertake some simple research into the period running up to the outbreak of war to help them understand the context in which young men were called-up. They would also be encouraged to 'write home', imagining their situation some distance away their parents. And to keep diaries of their lives in the trenches.
- Although the Warks Fusiliers were called up on 4th August it is too short notice and a less than ideal weekend to organize for children to participate during the school holidays. It is thus proposed for, say Sunday 5th October to avoid school holidays: the children would leave their homes and walk to the Parade / Memorial. There they each would be handed a small piece of turf from the grassy areas either side of the War Memorial for them to hold. The areas of turf removed would then be dug by 'recreationalists' to create two shallow trenches one on each side of the memorial, 30 metres apart, which would have sandbags built up around them.
- The trenches would be left for 4 years until 11th November 2018.
- The small pieces of turf, representing each soldier that fell, would then be taken by representatives of Leamington Town Council to the French twin town (to be agreed) for them to plant these turfs in a corner of an agreed field chosen by that Town's Council.
- The fenced corner would then become a lasting, simple commemoration for Leamington abroad (in the same way that the JF Kennedy Memorial ground at Runnymede was given by the UK to the USA after his assassination).

Scope:

- To encompass all of Leamington Spa in an event to mark the outbreak of the War and the mobilisation of the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers
- It would involve all schools, both primary and secondary.
- It would involve both Warwick District and Leamington Town Council
- WDC's support would be requested to use the park space either side of the memorial in Euston Place / The Parade
- Leamington Town Council's support would be sought for a civic event that weekend involving the French twin town partner and the planning and organisation of the memorial garden in France
- LTC support would also be sought for any other events around the memorial and in the Town Hall.

Budget and Resources:

- Cost of educational materials to be used in schools, for pupils to re-live the 'experience' of being away from home.
- The installation event: basic costs for use of 'recreationalists' to dig the trenches and set up the sandbags etc
- Travel expenses for the turfs to be taken to France by LTC representatives

Benefits and Results:

- to provide a lasting memory of the war and to commemorate those that fell through re-living the experience of call-up
- to encourage residents of Leamington Spa to think frequently about the War, the soldiers' existence in the trenches etc during the next four years
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Timing

- aiming for Sunday 5th October

Matt WESTERN

27th June 2014

