

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Councillors Sue Ingleby (Chair), Heather Calver, Roger Copping, Yvonne Moore, Ann Morrison (substituting for Cllr Judith Clarke) and Mota Singh

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judith Clarke, Gurpreet Dulay and Amanda Stevens

In attendance: Mr Colin Beadle and Mr Tony Bass (Leamington International Twinning Society)

An apology was received from John Mather (LITS)

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

24. PUBLIC FORUM

(i) Community Arts Workshop

Francis Godwin, the Arts and Creative Community Worker, provided the Committee with a report in relation to the development of the Arts Workshop since its relocation from the former Art College premises on Avenue Road to the Westbury Centre. He expressed thanks to the Town Council for its financial assistance and outlined the various initiatives which had been pursued in the past year.

He outlined the composition of a new Committee and the successful award of a Lottery grant of £9,000 which had been used for the Mosaic Group based at the Sydni Centre. This project required further funding particularly in relation to cataloguing and exhibiting work. He also outlined the various projects undertaken in partnership with other organisations aimed at assisting young people and input to the Lantern Project workshops organised by Leamington BID. Discussion was currently taking place with Warwick District Council to possibly utilise the East Lodge at Jephson Gardens as a permanent base, subject to securing funding. This location would enable more workshops with a creative theme which would also help to address some of the key health issues identified by some clients.

The Committee commended Mr Godwin for the contribution made by the Workshop, particularly in relation to working with people with health issues and those young people identified with poor school attendance records. It was appreciated that much of the work of the Workshop involved input from other organisations and this support would need to be clearly defined to assist future progress.

Mr Godwin was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

(ii) Saturday Friendship Group

The Committee received a presentation from Jenny Armstrong and Janice Austin in relation to the Saturday Friendship Group which had

received considerable funding from the Community Grant Fund over several years.

The Committee was updated on recent developments including the increasing emphasis now being placed on helping to develop personal skills and build confidence among those using the scheme. In partnership with the Salvation Army, a schedule of key performance indicators had recently been devised which showed that the Friendship Group was making steady progress in achieving its targets. It was noted that in relation to helping secure accommodation for clients, particular difficulties were now being experienced due to both increased demand for private rented and social housing and the reduced supply of supported accommodation. This was a key area to be addressed and would require input and action by a range of agencies. Funding had been obtained from Orbit Housing Association for the employment of a Job Coach who would help to assist clients with the completion of personal CVs and understanding of the job application process.

The Committee was thanked for its ongoing support in helping to keep this vital service to vulnerable people active. The Committee thanked the representatives for their presentation and commended them on the support they were providing in those areas no longer adequately bridged by mainstream services.

Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Austin were commended for their work and then left the meeting.

25. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

(i) **Bruhl 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Chairman referred to the recent visit to Bruhl in connection with the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the twinning agreement and the presentation of a bench to the Town Council by the Mayor of Bruhl. It was now necessary to agree a suitable location for this item. Several suggestions were made including the Pump Room Gardens and the forecourt area outside All Saints Church.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk investigates the options for placing the donated bench either at the Pump Room Gardens or outside All Saints Church.

(ii) **Other Twinning Matters**

Discussion briefly took place on the possible format of the return visit to Leamington Spa by Bruhl over the period 4-8 September 2014, and it was agreed that this would be best deferred for discussion by the Twinning Working Group.

RESOLVED that arrangements for the visit to Leamington Spa by a delegation from Bruhl over the period 4-8 September 2014 are discussed in detail with members of LITS at a meeting of the Twinning Working Group.

Reference was also made to the recent letter to the Town Clerk from a resident suggesting a possible twinning link with a Town in Northern India. It was agreed that this was a matter that would require careful

consideration together with discussion with Leamington Twinning Society.

RESOLVED that the proposed twinning link with a town in Northern India is deferred pending further discussion.

The members of LITS confirmed that the dates for the exchange visits to Sceaux, provisionally agreed as 4th-8th April, had not yet been confirmed though this was understood to be the preferred dates. It was anticipated that the visit of the delegation from Heemstede would take place over the period 26-30 June 2014, but no official letter to Heemstede should be sent until hosting arrangements had been determined..

The members of LITS then left the meeting.

RESOLVED that the prospective Twinning visits are noted and action taken as appropriate.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cultural and Community Meeting held on 10 October 2013 are approved and signed as a correct record.

27. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Minute 22 – Tree Renewal

The Town Clerk advised that, following correspondence with the County Council, it had been agreed that a total of 24 trees, costing £3,120, would be replaced utilising the funding provided by the Town Council. The Committee's earlier suggested location of Villiers Street had not received a response but the shortfall within the scheme amounting to the sum of £880 could be utilised on the replacement of trees recently removed from Beauchamp Avenue. This work had been rendered essential as a result of the declining health of 8 lime trees which had necessitated their removal in the interests of public safety.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the proposed programme of tree replacements as set out in the schedule attached to the signed Minutes is approved; and
- (ii) that a further £880 is incurred on replacing lime trees removed from Beauchamp Avenue.

28. BLUE PLAQUE UNVEILINGS

The Town Clerk reported on the recent unveiling of three blue plaques and directed the Committee's attention to the approved list of candidates for potential plaques in 2014.

At this juncture the Committee expressed no preference for any of the approved candidates but would reconsider the matter early in 2014.

RESOLVED that the Report of the Town Clerk is noted and further consideration given to potential candidates for a plaque at the next meeting.

29. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS – MONITORING FORMS

The monitoring information, circulated to Members prior to the meeting in respect of the recipients of Community Grants in 2012-13, was noted.

In relation to the Lillington Fun Day it was suggested that Councillor Copping make discreet enquiries with the organisers relating to a possible surplus of grant funds after completion of the event.

RESOLVED that the grant monitoring information is noted and that a further report is made to the next meeting in relation to the use of funding in connection with Lillington Fun Day.

30. LILLINGTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Consideration was given to a letter (Report No. 8) from the Vice-Chairman of Lillington Local History Society requesting that the Town Mayor become the ex officio President of the Society.

RESOLVED that the invitation to the Mayor to be appointed President of the Lillington Local History Society is accepted, subject to the Mayor's availability to attend future Annual General Meetings of the Society.

31. LEAMINGTON WALKING TOURS

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 9) in relation to the Leamington Walking Tours - 2013. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work and commitment of the History Group and Volunteer Guides who had taken on the responsibility of both organising and delivering walking tours throughout the Town during the summer months. Statistics for participation by the public were particularly encouraging and boded well for a successful tour programme in 2014.

RESOLVED

- that the walks are continued in 2014 by the Leamington History Group;
- that the Town Council continue to provide financial and administrative support for the walks;
- that publicity for the walks is increased and incorporated into other Leamington events and activities;
- that the programme for walks be developed further to include local schools;
- that a portable microphone be acquired to assist the guides with managing significant numbers of people; and
- the options for occasional pre-booked walks are accommodated subject to available guides.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and ended at 8.25pm.

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date.....