

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD
ON 10th JANUARY 2022**

Present: Councillors David Brunson (Chair), Julija Boulton, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, Will Bryce, Louisa Radice, and Nick Wilkins.

Stephen Marks, Town Clerk

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jade McGhee (Cllr Wilkins substituting). Cllr Amanda Stevens (Cllr Gifford substituting)

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wilkins declared an interest in relation to the grant application from Leamington Old Town Traders and left the meeting while that application was discussed.

Cllr Bryce declared an interest in relation to the grant application from the Leamington Music Festival and left the meeting while that application was discussed.

38. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no representations from Members of the public

39. ARTS UPLIFT CIC – UPDATE

Jenny Davis (Director of Arts Uplift) provided an update on the Covid-19 Recovery Arts Programme, including showing a short video. This is a project for which the Town Council had previously provided funding support.

Arts Uplift CIC (<https://www.artsuplift.co.uk/>) is a not for profit Community Interest Company which uses arts and heritage to enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Information about the project can be found at <https://www.artsuplift.co.uk/covid-19-recovery-arts-programme-with-adults-on-probation/> but specific points were identified:

Arts Uplift worked in partnership with Augustus house and Crave Arts to deliver film making and creative writing workshops with adults on probation, particularly noting the limited opportunities for engagement / socialising due to the pandemic.

Aims:

- Participants reporting improved mental health and wellbeing, positive use of time, managing emotions, developing new skills, attitude to crime free life.
- Offender managers reporting in the participants - better engagement; increased confidence and motivation; attitude to job-seeking, training or employment; reduction in offending.

Evaluation was undertaken with the participants, the offender managers and the participating artists. Overall outcomes were very positive. More detail is available on

the website. Jenny noted that Arts Uplift is hoping to work with Augustus house again.

Cllrs noted how positive the project was and the effectiveness of the video in demonstrating the project. Jenny was thanked for her presentation.

40. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

The Town Clerk provided a short report as received from Karen Macqueen, chair of Leamington International Twinning Society. Key points were:

The society has continued to make plans for twinning activities despite the ongoing uncertainty surrounding social gatherings and foreign travel.

A very successful Christmas lunch was held in December.

In November the chairman of the Sceaux twinning associations visited Leamington and had a very fruitful meeting with the Mayor.

It is proposed to hold a meeting of all three twin towns in Oxford over the weekend of 1st-3rd April this year which the LITS committee will organise. There is still some trepidation on the part of our French and German friends about travelling to England so the committee will make a decision (11th January) on the viability of the visit.

The date for the official visit from Leamington to Sceaux will be 6th -11th May to continue the 50th anniversary celebrations from 2019. This will include the installation of a commemorative plaque in Sceaux and also an event to mark the end of the Second World War which will be attended by the Mayor of Brühl.

The official visit to Leamington from Brühl will be from 8th to 12th October this year. A zoom meeting is being held at the end of January to establish connections with the staff at Brühl Council and start discussions for the celebration of our twinning anniversary with them in 2023.

41. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 1st November 2021 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

42. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

43. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The committee considered the community grant applications received. Cllr Wilkins left the meeting for the discussion of the Leamington Old Town Trader application. Cllr Bryce left the meeting for the discussion of the Leamington Music Festival application.

RESOLVED that the following grants are awarded:

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
1	Leamington Old Town Traders	Doglott (to promote responsible dog ownership) and Bikerlott (to help increase footfall for local businesses)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
2	Leamington Brakes in the Community	Vitality Schools Project: intervention programme to increase activity levels and fitness levels and improve mental health in young people	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
3	Parenting Project	Family Wellbeing Pathway: provision of parent mentor support in Leamington Spa	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
4	Friends of Christchurch Gardens	Community Noticeboard for Christchurch Gardens	£1,936.80	£1,936.80
5	RLS Canoe Club	Kayaking courses for autistic people and vulnerable women (purchase of 3 new boats to enable growth of provision of free courses to these target groups)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
6	Art in the Park	Community Outreach Project: online and in person arts workshops	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
7	Arts Uplift CIC	Love Music Leamington: weekly singing and music workshops for people with dementia and their carers	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
8	Saturday Friendship Group	Continued support of drop-in service for homeless or vulnerably housed people in Leamington (Salvation Army Way Ahead Project)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
9	Warwickshire Open Studios	Plein Air 2022: non-selective arts event open to all and to be held in the open air in Jephson Gardens on 4th Sept 2022	£1,975.00	£1,975.00
10	Leamington Music Festival	Leamington Music Festival & Winter Season: contribution to concerts, education, venue hire, publicity and admin	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
11	2nd Warwick Sea Scouts Group	Activity Equipment: cub tent, archery equipment & camping fridge	£1,145.26	£1,145.26
			TOTAL	£21,057.06

A number of comments were made about individual applications or about processes more generally.

Comments / feedback to applicants:

Application 1 – It was not clear where the additional £900 required for the project would be sourced from. Clarity about the additional source of funding to be requested and detailed written feedback requested at the end of the project.

Application 3 – ask for specific feedback / detail on which children and families centres the project will be delivered from.

Application 5 – the application would have benefitted from more detail.

Application 10 – the application would have benefitted from more detail.

Application 11 – the applicant is asked to be very clear about the benefit to those members specifically from Leamington Spa.

The committee asked that when considering future applications, it be indicated whether the applicant has provided adequate feedback in relation to any previous grant awards received and that it be indicated whether the applicant has provided quotes / prices for those items above £250 that it wishes to purchase with grant funding.

The committee noted that they would like to receive more structured feedback from completed projects.

It was noted that there were grant applications in relation to most of the identified priorities, but not many relating to environment / climate change. Efforts to be made to highlight these when promoting the grants.

44. **CREATIVE QUARTER REPORT**

The committee considered the report provided. It was noted that the Stoneleigh Arms is on Clemens Street.

45. **BLUE PLAQUES GROUP**

The committee considered the update report in relation to Blue Plaques.

The Democratic Support Officer was commended on her work in relation to Blue Plaques.

It was noted that previously all Town Councillors had been invited to / notified of blue plaque unveilings and it would be welcome to return to that practice. It was noted that Covid precautions had resulted in amendments to the approach to recent unveilings, but that in the future Town Councillors would be notified of blue plaque unveilings and subject to the Covid situation invited to attend.

It was noted that the efforts to identify more blue plaques recognising women were seemingly being successful.

46. LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM

The Committee noted the written report provided. The committee would welcome more information about the Jubilee Tree in due course.

47. STREET TREES PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

The Town Clerk provided a short update in relation to street trees.

Proposals for possible street trees were provided to WCC Forestry Service. 32 street trees have been ordered to be planted in Leamington. Street tree maintenance has been undertaken via routine cyclical inspections in Leamington, including where possible trees identified by the Town Council.

The question was posed as to whether there is still an arrangement whereby WCC / contractor will replace a new tree if it dies fairly early on in its lifespan. Clarification will be sought.

Finished 19:25.

Signed

Date.....