

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD
AT THE TOWN HALL ON 3rd OCTOBER 2022**

Present: Councillors Will Bryce (Vice Chair), Jennifer McAllister, Judith Clarke, Susan Rasmussen, Ruggy Singh and Nick Wilkins

Katherine Geddes (Democratic Support Officer)

13. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors David Brunson, Amanda Stevens and Jade McGhee.

14. **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.

15. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from Members of the Public

16. **KATH KIMBER-McTIFFIN – WRIGGLE DANCE THEATRE**

Kath delivered a 10-minute presentation on the work of her group. Founded in 2010 by co-directors Kath Kimber-McTiffen and Lucy Knight, Wriggle Dance Theatre is a registered charity specialising in producing high quality dance performances for young children and their families. They also reach other less engaged audiences by making their works adaptable and accessible.

Wriggle Dance Theatre presents national touring shows in traditional spaces such as theatres and schools. It also delivers an outreach programme in non-traditional spaces such as libraries and care homes.

The project for which the group received a grant in January 2021 was “Dancing Jukebox Gems” which was an outdoor professional dance performance for older & vulnerable adults. It began life as a 10-minute doorstep performance during the Covid 19 lockdowns to lessen social isolation and loneliness. This developed into the care homes project.

The group partnered with Orbit Housing and toured to Landor House, Rene England House and Queensway Court, reaching a total of 44 residents. The performance was a 50-minute tour through the music of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Each performance involved three performers and residents could sing, dance or just watch.

The performances aided the homes’ reminiscence sessions as residents recalled dancing and socialising in their younger years.

Following the presentation, queries were made regarding:

- Participation of children/young people in this project – children and young people were not the target audience for this project but some of the care home residents grandchildren who were there took part as well.
- Annual projects – the group does not deliver an annual project but rather works on a project-to-project basis.
- What is next? – A filmed theatre show for families to do a national tour with interactive seating which can go into non-technical locations and to include slime and other child-friendly activities.

Kath Kimber-McTiffin was thanked for her attendance and presentation. She left the meeting at 6:16pm.

17. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

Mrs Karen McQueen presented an Update from LITS:

Members from the Bruhl Twinning Association due to arrive in Leamington Spa on Saturday 8th October and stay until Wednesday 12th October. 25 visitors are expected and 5 new LITS members will be hosting for the first time.

There will be an official welcome at the Town Hall with the Mayor on the Saturday evening when the visitors arrive at around 6pm. A Dinner will be held at Warwick School on the Sunday evening – 62 people due to attend.

A visit to Mortimer's Castle in Much Marcle in Herefordshire is scheduled for the Monday morning followed by a visit to Ross-on-Wye. On the Tuesday there is a tour of the Pump Rooms & Art Gallery and Jephson Gardens in the morning then a trip to the real tennis courts on Bedford Street. A farewell will take place at Radford Semele Village Hall on the Wednesday morning. Some Bruhl members have come to Leamington Spa separately and will make a longer holiday in the UK after the visit to Leamington Spa.

There are 55 members of LITS signed up currently and there will be a push for new members via the LITS website and social media in the autumn. Also, to be promoted is the Young Person's Fund which is the LITS charity arm. Young people can apply for funds for cultural visits to the twinned towns.

Dates have been agreed for the visit from Sceaux Twinning Association in April 2023 which will be after Easter but before the local elections. 50th anniversary of the twinning with Bruhl is September 2023 – LITS members will be visiting there on the weekend of the 16th/17th September. Bruhl will return the visit in the Spring of 2024.

Following the update, queries were made concerning the following:

- Mayoral powers – The Mayors of Bruhl and Sceaux are elected officials who serve for a set term and have more powers than the Mayor of Leamington Spa which is a more ceremonial role. Warwick District Council has more of the same sorts of decision-making powers than the Town Council. Expectations should be managed as to what can realistically be delivered by the Town Council.

- Naming a location in town for 50th anniversary – Warwick District Council have been approached about the possibility of naming a location after Bruhl to mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning with Leamington Spa and will help with twinning matters where capacity allows.

RESOLVED that the Update is received and noted.

Karen McQueen was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 6:35pm.

18. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 13th June 2022 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

19. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Grant no's 3 and 8 from the meeting held on 13th June 2022 (Brunswick Hub Long Covid Support Project and In the Moment Musical Exchanges) provided the additional information as requested which was shared with members and agreed unanimously to proceed with the grants on this basis.

20. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The committee considered the community grant applications received and resolved that the following grants were awarded:

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
1	Sydenham Primary School	SPLAT! Children's Community Arts Festival	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
2	Friends of Leamington Station	Leamington Station Garden – retaining strips	£1,780.00	£1,780.00
3	Warks & Northants Air Ambulance	Funding for one mission (restricted to Leamington Spa)	£1,700.00	£1,700.00
4	Entrust Care Partnership	Dance group for disabled children	£1,730.00	£1,730.00
5	Time 4 Hope	Time 2 Be Connected - online counselling sessions for parents of children with severe disabilities	£2,000.00	Funding to be granted subject to the provision of further information requested.

21. **BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE**

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

- William Heynes – Plaque delivered to the Town Hall and was installed on 27th September at 11 Percy Terrace by Pinners. Plaque was unveiled by the Mayor and Mr Jonathan Heynes (son) on 28th September at the property. Attendance was very good and a short presentation on the life of Mr Heynes was given by Mr Tony Merrygold of the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust following the reception in the Council Chamber after the unveiling.
- Christopher & Janey Ironside – Listed Building Consent submitted to WDC for the Plaque to be installed at 11 Lansdowne Circus. Once granted, the Plaque will be ordered and a date of either 6th or 7th December is pencilled in for an unveiling. Virginia Ironside has offered a kind donation of £100 towards the costs.
- Camouflage Unit – Special Interest Plaque cannot be housed on the Regent Hotel as no response received from owners over six months of queries. WDC/CDP have responded positively to suggestion that the Plaque could go on the frontage of the Old Dole Office in Spencer Yard as part of the Creative Quarter works there. This property is not scheduled for works in the short term which gives an opportunity for research into any possible external funding opportunities.
- Other current shortlisted nominees are Eleanor Velsaco Thornton, Rosa Newmarch, Donald Healey, William Browne and Fred Mulley. The owner of the property for the proposed Plaque for Sir John Hicks has declined to house the Plaque due to ongoing health issues.
- Another possibility which requires more research is a Special Interest Plaque at the real tennis club in Bedford St.

22. **LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM UPDATE**

The Committee considered and noted the written report provided.

- Trees of Jephson Gardens leaflet printed and now available via the TIC, the Town Hall and the Glass House (next print could have a separate key)
- HEiB judges tour took place on 13th July. Excellent weather and a smooth journey to each designated location on the tour. Ended at the Glasshouse Restaurant in Jephson Gardens. Locations on the tour included The Holt, Eagle Recreation Ground, Shrubland St Primary School and St Mary's allotments. The HEiB Awards were given out on 22nd September in Birmingham. No attendance from Leamington in Bloom due to illness but Leamington received a sixth consecutive Gold Award in the small city category.
- LiB has stalls at Art in the Park and Ecofest which were both well-attended events (although the extreme hot weather affected the shift cover for the stall at Art in the Park). The new gazebo was very effective although next year will need a banner saying 'Leamington in

Bloom' as the RLSTC logo attracted some "council" related queries which were redirected to the WDC stalls.

- Commercial & Retail Competition - Thirty businesses across town have been recognized for their floral efforts in 2022 and will be receiving Highly Commended, Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. Recipients will receive framed certificates and be invited to the presentation reception. This to be held in the Mayor's Parlour on Wednesday 19th October at 6pm.
- Photographic Competition - 42 entries were received under the theme of "Landmarks of Leamington". LiB members will judge the entries and choose three winners and eleven more runners-up which will all feature in next year's LiB calendar. The first, second and third winners will receive prizes of £50, £35 and £20 respectively and certificates at the presentation reception
- Jubilee Tree update - It was reported to the DSO on 19th July that sadly the Jubilee Tree on Newbold Comyn had been attacked by vandals and now only has two branches left at the top. Jon Holmes has advised leaving it in place as it will bush out eventually but never recover fully. He has kindly offered a like for like replacement to be planted at the edge of the same field which LiB has accepted.

23. **STREET TREES UPDATE**

The Street Trees list for Leamington for Winter 2022 has been received from WCC Forestry and will be forwarded to all members following this meeting. It shows which works have been carried out this year, which are still to be done and which cannot be done (with explanation). All members can send the DSO new street tree planting and maintenance suggestions for inclusion in next year's list from 1st – 30th November 2022.

The Tree Officer for Leamington has requested the Town Council considers allocating half of next year's Tree budget to plating 14 trees in the Prospect Rd/Grosvenor Rd area to replace trees lost and to fit in with scheduled WCC Highways works in this area. Members requested more information on this item before a recommendation is made to Council – the DSO to invite the Tree Officer to attend the next Cultural & Community Committee on 7th November 2022 to give further detail.

Other streets to be concentrated on in Winter 2022 are Alexandra Rd and Greatheed Rd. This will be to replace lost trees in existing improved tree pits.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7:25pm.

Signed

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