

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD  
ON 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors David Brunson (Chair), Jennifer McAllister, Amanda Stevens, Julija Boulton, Janet Alty (substituting for Cllr Bryce) and Nick Wilkins (substituting for Cllr McGhee)

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

14. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Judith Clarke, Will Bryce and Jade McGhee.

15. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Councillor Will Bryce was nominated in his absence and with his consent as Vice Chair of the Cultural & Community Committee 2021/22 by Councillor Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Alty.

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

16. **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, and also as a member of Leamington Rotary Club.

Councillor McAllister declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Town Council representative on the Leamington Blue Plaques Group.

Councillor Alty declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Leamington History Group.

17. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from Members of the public

18. **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:

- Membership list has been rationalised over the summer and is now fully up to date. There are 39 memberships accounting for 44 individuals.
- Online events continuing in the Autumn starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with Bruhl and a presentation on their behalf on the German Army.
- Group members will be present at the Cars in the Spa event at the Pump Room Gardens on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Will be bringing a Citroen 2CV as a good promotional tool.

- Group Christmas lunch is booked for 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Royal Pug.
- Visits are now pencilled in for LITS to go to Sceaux in Spring 2022 and for Bruhl to come to Leamington in October 2022. Planning a tripartite group meeting for Spring 2022 to take place in Oxford.

Karen raised the possibility of a new welcome sign at the Railway Station which could mention the towns and places Leamington is twinned with. Members agreed this could be a positive and useful contribution to the updating of the Railway Station forecourt for the Commonwealth Games in 2022. The DSO will forward appropriate contacts at Warwick District Council and Chiltern Rail for Karen to discuss this proposal with.

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

Karen McQueen was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 6:27pm.

19. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

20. **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. Arts Uplift CIC – final three workshops (creative writing) going ahead this month. The last one is 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. These were held at Augusta House for people on probation.
2. Leamington Poetry Festival – going ahead on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Oct at Temperance Café. Free entry.
3. Warwickshire Open Studios – exhibition of their artists to held at Leamington Spa Art Gallery to celebrate their belated 20<sup>th</sup> (and now 21<sup>st</sup>) birthdays. Late Oct – early Jan.
4. Own Books – poetry workshops for children took place face to face at the SYDNI Centre in August. 4 online webinar sessions are about to complete.
5. North Warwickshire Active CIC – courses to begin on Wednesday mornings at start of October – referrals currently being sought. To be held at Cubbington Sports Pavilion.

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

21. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Rotary Club of Royal Leamington Spa	Expanding Community Support through Social Media	£1750	£1750 on the production of two further comparative quotes
Myton Hospice	Myton at Home visits x 18	£1908	£1908

Time 4 Hope	Time 2 Recover - online specialist counselling for parents of disabled children plus meditation session	£2000	£2000
Muscular Dystrophy Support Centre	24 physiotherapy sessions for 5 Leamington Spa residents	£2000	£2000
Leamington History Group	Global Leamington - new local history book	£2000	£2000
Achieving Results in Communities CIC	Wellbeing in Nature at Foundry Wood – 7-week outdoor wellbeing sessions for hard-to-reach community	£2000	£2000
Warwickshire & Northants Air Ambulance	One mission (restricted to Leamington)	£1700	£1700
			<b>TOTAL = £13,358</b>

*Note: In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Stevens, having previously declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application by the Rotary Club of Royal Leamington Spa, did not take part in the discussion of and voting on this application.*

(Councillor Stevens left the meeting at 7:01pm due to ill health)

#### 10. **CREATIVE QUARTER UPDATE**

- Planning permission was granted for the proposed redevelopment of Spencer Yard on 19<sup>th</sup> July – works to roof of the United Reform Church (URC) will take priority as these are most urgent. The technical designs for the redevelopment are being worked up ready for tender and CDP are hoping to start the main works on site in January 2022.
- The tranche of the Future High Street Funding monies allocated to this project by WDC must be spent in this financial year which is an extra incentive to expedite the works needed. CDP has a tenant lined up and ready to sign the contract for the URC.
- Still in early stages of assessing options for the Court St site with WDC. Hopeful that more developed ideas can be brought to the Stakeholder Group in early November. Stakeholder Group last met in February 2021 – previous scheduled meeting in July was cancelled.

**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:

- Unveiling of the Blue Plaque for Eddie Hapgood confirmed for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 44 Heath Terrace, followed by refreshments at the Town Hall in the Council Chamber at 2:45pm. Plaque confirmed to be installed by Pinners on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Official invitations went to Hapgood family members, representatives of the Leamington History Group, the Leamington Society, Leamington Literary Society, Cllr Bill Gifford, Leamington FC and Arsenal FC with an RSVP deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> August. Owners of the property have confirmed they will also be present.

Biography leaflet written by Robin Taylor and approved by Dr Lynne Hapgood designed and printed by WDC. Photographs and press release to be sent to local press and put on Town Council social media.

- No updates received from the owner of 27 Woodbine Street as yet. She is sourcing scaffolding quotes as the agreed location of the Woodbine St Studio Plaque is to the right hand side of the property frontage above a window. Wording has been agreed.
- Location and wording agreed for the Blue Plaque for Mrs Margaret Maitland Fowler on the Parthenon building in Bath St (now Iceland). Owner of property will make a £100 donation towards the cost of the creation of the Plaque and the Leamington History Group has offered to make up the shortfall. A Listed Building Consent is required for this Plaque which the DSO will complete and submit to WDC.
- Plaque for Miss Eleanor Doorly agreed in terms of wording and location on property at 23 St Mary's Crescent. King's High School have offered £200 towards the cost of the creation of this Plaque. This one to be erected early 2022.
- Other agreed Plaques for 2022 are Christopher & Janey Ironside at 11 Lansdowne Circus, Sir John Hicks at 17 Claremont Rd and Camouflage Unit at Travelodge. A possible Plaque for 2023 has emerged for Nelly Thornton who was the model for the Spirit of Ecstasy Rolls Royce bonnet ornament. She lived at 24 Charlotte Street.

**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:

- The LiB Annual Portfolio submission has been completed by the DSO with help from members of LiB, and it was submitted to Heart of England in Bloom on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. They have confirmed the Portfolio has reached Joe

Heydon who is one of our two usual judges. No date has been given as to when results will be announced.

- Stalls were booked and supervised at Art in the Park (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> August) and Ecofest (4<sup>th</sup> Sept). Both events were successful in terms of engagement and networking. Weather at Art in the Park was wet and windy at points over the weekend and the original gazebo erected on the Friday was damaged by the winds and had had to be removed and replaced on the Saturday morning by a speedy replacement. Numbers of attendees at Art in the Park had been high despite the weather and the game and crafts had been completed/run out by 3pm on the Sunday. Leaflets and magazines were given away at both events.  
Ecofest was slow to get going for the first hour but numbers were steady after that. The activities available at the stall attracted and engaged all ages.
- Shops, Pubs & Restaurants Competition - results from all areas had been received There were 7 Gold, 4 Silver, 9 Bronze and 9 Highly Commended which is a slight increase on 2020. LiB members agreed to have a presentation photo opportunity with the Mayor and recipients of both these certificates and the winners of the Photographic Competition on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. Recipients to be invited to gather outside the Town Hall.
- Photographic Competition – there were 42 entries this year. These photos were judged by the Group in terms of the theme (Seasons in Leamington), composition, colour, location and impact. Debate led to the final choice of winners:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Fox – Snow on Beverley Rd (£50)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ignaty Dyakov-Richmond – Blossom on York Walk (£35)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Laura Richmond – Bowling Greens Turn White (£25)

Winners to be invited to receive their cheques from the Mayor on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. A further 11 shots were selected for the 2022 Calendar. Calendar to be designed and printed by early Oct. Available from the TIC and the LiB website.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted.

### 13. **STREET TREES**

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

- Tree Inspector has been working in the Leamington area inspecting the trees and noting what maintenance work is necessary. The Tree Officer will then look at the streets and prioritise the works so the Town Council funding for tree maintenance is put to best use.
- Forestry Section have successfully recruited new Tree Officer staff – one has just started and the other is due to start week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> September

2021. Once they are up and running, they will have better capacity to look at the tree planting schedule within the Leamington town area. The sites on the list provided by the Town Council will be a priority.

- The DSO has an updated list of works completed to the Tree list sent through by this Council to the Forestry Section in Winter 2020 and she will circulate this to members after the meeting. It contains some queries – if a query relates to a tree put forward by a particular member, please let the DSO have the answer and she will relay it to Forestry.

Questions were put by members regarding the various areas of responsibility for the different arboricultural members of staff and the existing and potential new tree list for Leamington. The DSO will invite the Tree Officer to the next scheduled meeting of this Committee to answer these queries.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7:24pm.

Signed .....

Date.....