

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2020

The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Present: Councillors Julija Boulton, David Brunson, Will Bryce, Judith Clarke, Amy Evans, Jennifer McAllister, Louisa Radice and Amanda Stevens.

Also present: Councillor Nick Wilkins and Ms Karen MacQueen (Leamington International Twinning Society)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor David Brunson was proposed and seconded as Chairman. There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor David Brunson is appointed Chairman of the Cultural and Community Committee for the year to May, 2021.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Jennifer McAllister was proposed and seconded as Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED that Councillor Jennifer McAllister is appointed Vice-Chairman of the Cultural and Community Committee for the year to May, 2021.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Boulton declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application in the application by Leamington Studio Artists to be considered with other applications for assistance under the Community Grant Fund.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from Members of the public

6. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

The Chairman welcomed Karen McQueen to the meeting, following her election as Chair at the LITS Annual General Meeting.

Karen explained that discussions had taken place with representatives of the Twinning Associations in Sceaux and Bruhl and that it had been unanimously agreed that because of the Coronavirus crisis disruption, the twinning visits scheduled to Sceaux in April and Leamington in October should be postponed until 2021. The dates of the visits in 2021 had been agreed as the 9th-13th April for the visit to Sceaux and 9th-13th October for the visit to Leamington by Bruhl, both occasions corresponding to the School half term holidays.

Karen confirmed that the cancellation of the planned visits this year had provided an opportunity for the Society to consider matters such as communication, widening the membership base, succession planning and encouraging and linking with friendship activities between groups outside of the twinning framework. In answer to a question, she confirmed that the opportunities presented for maintaining links with the twin towns via the internet and virtual technology would be a further area to be explored.

RESOLVED that the Report is received.

Karen was thanked for her Report and then left the Meeting.

7. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 19th March, 2020, are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **BLUE PLAQUES**

Reference was made to the work of the Blue Plaque Group and the implications arising from recent national concerns as to the connection of famous people with the slave trade. It was thought to be opportune to ask the Blue Plaque Group to consider whether any of the current plaques in the Town respected people with a connection to slavery.

RESOLVED that the Blue Group is requested to consider the current plaques with a view to any historical connections to slavery.

(ii) **COUNCIL OBJECTIVES (Minute 62)**

This matter had been left in abeyance due to the disruption over the last few months resulting in the cancellation of the meeting of the Committee on 23rd April. The objectives would therefore be included on the Agenda for the next Meeting, prior to which the Town Clerk would circulate the report previously included for the Committee's consideration at the meeting in March .

(iii) **VE/VJ Day – 8th MAY 2020 (Minute 64)**

The Town Clerk confirmed that this event had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Warwick District Council had confirmed that no events would be taking place on Council owned land before 1st September 2020. It was likely that the VE/VJ event would be postponed to a suitable date in 2021.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

9. **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Consideration was given to a schedule of applications for grants under the Community Grant Fund. Individual applications had been uploaded to the Council website and were considered by the Committee prior to the meeting.

Following consideration of the applications it was

RESOLVED that the following Grants are approved:-

Applicant	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Creative Leamington	Commissioning Public artwork	£2,000.00	£1,000
Earth Bound	Virtual studio for new programme of wellbeing activities	£2,000.00	deferred for further information
Guys Gift	Project Book Box	£2,000.00	£800
Leamington Studio Artists	Art exhibition for young artists with physical and mental health issues	£2,000.00	deferred for further information
Leamington Trash Friends	Community Improvement schemes	£725.00	£725
Leamington Old Town Team	American themed event	£2,000.00	deferred for further information
Leamington Netball Club	Equipment for junior players	£1,714.00	£1,714
Smallpiece Trust	Think Kits for schools in Leamington Spa	£1,500.00	£1,500
Warwickshire Vision Support	Telephone Befriending Service	£1,992.00	£1,992
Muscular Dystrophy Support	Physiotherapy services	£2,000.00	£2,000
All are Welcome (Radford Rd Church)	meeting place for people experiencing loneliness	£1,000.00	£1,000

Note; In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Boulton, having previously declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application by Leamington Studio Artists remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion and voting on the application.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.17 pm.