

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER, 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors David Brunson (Chair), Navdeep Atwal, Will Bryce, Amy Evans, Jennifer McAllister and Louisa Radice.

Sue Staddon (Leamington International Twinning Society)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Julija Boulton.

19. **COUNCILLOR H.CALVER**

It was noted that Councillor Calver had now resigned from Membership of the Council. The Committee would be asked to appoint a new Chair at the next meeting.

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this time.

21. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No representations were made.

22. **TOWN TWINNING MATTERS**

The Chairman welcomed Sue Staddon to the meeting to discuss matters relating to the preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the signing of the Twinning Agreement with Sceaux.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the draft programme of events and this primarily included the following:-

**Saturday – 19<sup>th</sup> October – Town Hall Leamington Spa – Renewal of Twinning Agreement**

**Sunday – 20<sup>th</sup> October – Warwick School - Civic Dinner followed by Firework display**

The Committee was advised that work to rectify water damage to the ceiling above the main staircase at the Town Hall had necessitated the erection of scaffolding. This had presently resulted in the upper floors being accessible to the general public only by means of the lift. It was agreed that in the event that access to the first floor could not be restored by 19<sup>th</sup> October, an alternative venue should be considered. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the alternative option of the Royal Pump Rooms for the Ceremony on the 19<sup>th</sup> October.

It was confirmed that approximately 40 guests would be visiting from Sceaux including the Deputy Mayor. Invitations to attend the Ceremony had been extended to all Councillors and Past Mayors.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted and that the Town Clerk investigates the option of alternative accommodation for the Ceremony to be held on 19th October, in the event that access to the first floor of the Town hall is not restored.

23. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

24. **COMMUNITY GRANT FUND 2019/20**

The Town Clerk reported a letter of appreciation from Young People First following the decision to reallocate funding originally granted by the Committee in May, 2019 to the Brunswick Youth Project Summer Scheme for the purpose of meeting the cost of additional staff resources.

In addition, the Committee was advised of the following replies to Grants awarded at the last meeting:-

Independent Advocacy - £1,000. The Committee was thanked for its generosity and advised that a full project assessment would be reported in due course.

Central England Lipreading Support Trust - £2,000 – The Committee was thanked for its support in helping to sustain lipreading courses over the next twelve months.

Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance - £2,000. The Committee had requested details of the number of accidents attended by this service and if possible, a break-down of the geographic location of persons involved in accidents attended by the Air Ambulance. The following information was provided for the Committee's assistance:-

During week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September 47 missions were flown of which 29% were road traffic collisions.

Residential locations of those persons assisted are not recorded but the commencement of operations by the service more than 300 missions had been flown to Leamington Spa and the surrounding area with 34 occurring in 2018.

A grant monitoring form had also been received from Entrust Care Partnership in respect of the Father's Support Group project, and a copy has been filed with the original grant application which is open to public inspection.

25. **LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM**

Following the award of a Gold certificate in the small city category of the Heart of England in Bloom Competition 2019, the Council had received the Judges marking analysis and a copy is attached to the Minutes.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a copy had been sent to Warwick District Council and a meeting with the contract manager responsible for maintaining green spaces had taken place to inform the Competition entry in 2020. It was suggested that the opportunity to engage more directly with residents, possibly through a residential competition could be considered and that this could be a matter for discussion by the Communications Working Group.

The Town Clerk advised that there was a vacancy on the Leamington in Bloom Committee and that this was traditionally allocated to a member of the Cultural and Community Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted and suggested actions endorsed.

26. **VE DAY 75 – 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

The Committee considered a Report (Report No. 9) setting out details of the celebrations being co-ordinated across the United Kingdom to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the second World War in Europe on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

A draft programme of events was set out in the Report. The Committee was also advised of a letter received from Mr Barton on behalf of Warwick District Remembers indicating that it was planning an event at the Pump Room Gardens on 8<sup>th</sup> May including a Service of Remembrance, military vehicle displays, displays of memorabilia and music accompaniment appropriate to the occasion. It was anticipated that the cost of hosting this event would be in the region of £10,000, a significant proportion of which remained to be funded. A concert was also planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> November to mark the end of all World-wide hostilities.

The Committee expressed support for the celebration on the 8<sup>th</sup> May as this would enable the community to come together to recognise the enduring peace in Europe since 1945. It was agreed to support the principle of a financial contribution from the Town Council and to refer consideration of the extent of the Council's support to the Policy and Resources Committee. It was suggested that the organiser is requested to consider the recognition of local war-time connections in the themed displays.

**RESOLVED to Recommend the Council**

- (l) to support the proposed event at the Pump Room Gardens on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day; and

- (ii) that the Policy and Resources Committee considers an appropriate financial contribution based on a costed project plan.

27. **TREE REPLACEMENT AND RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk outlined the Council's commitment in financial terms to the tree maintenance and replacement programme for the current financial year. A programme of on-going maintenance of trees located along the highway was subsidised by a grant of £10,000 from the Town Council and details reported periodically to the Committee.

In terms of new tree planting, a schedule of locations was circulated in which Members had suggested trees be planted before expiry of the current planting season in March 2020. An invitation to attend the Meeting had been made to the Forestry Team at Warwickshire County Council and a response was awaited.

A member referred to complaints registered by a resident living at Curzon Grove arising from a tree intruding on the light within the house. This matter had been referred to the Forestry Officer on a previous occasion and work to reduce the height and spread of the tree had been rejected. However it was hoped that the matter could be re-visited.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the following locations are approved for investigation for new trees:-
  - 54 and 64 The Fairways
  - 176 Cubbington Road
  - Brunswick Street – (junction with Masters Road)
  - 11. 41 & 47 Lillington Close
- (ii) that the Town Clerk requests a further investigation into the circumstances concerning management of a tree at Curzon Grove

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.15 pm.