

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 2 JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillors Judith Clarke (Chair), Heather Calver, Roger Copping, Gurpreet Dulay, Sue Ingleby, Mota Singh and Amanda Stevens

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Yvonne Moore and Mr John Mather (Leamington International Twinning Society).

In attendance: Mrs Enid Simms and Mrs Jackie Webb (Leamington in Bloom Committee) and Mr Colin Beadle (Leamington International Twinning Society)

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

32. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

33. LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM

Mrs Enid Simms, Chair of the Leamington in Bloom Committee, was invited to summarise the position with regard to the Town's entry in the Heart of England In Bloom competition in 2014. She referred to the success in the 2013 competition but, due to changes in the population banding for entrants, Leamington would, in future, be competing with much larger urban areas and small cities. This would place additional burdens on the already over-stretched Committee and therefore it was considered that no competition entry should be made in 2014. It was intended to alternatively concentrate on developing local initiatives and building capacity within the Committee. It was noted that whilst there were a number of local initiatives taking place in the town, communication between the respective voluntary groups, the Leamington in Bloom Committee and the District Council had not always been productive.

It was confirmed that in order for the Committee to promote and deliver local initiatives in 2014-15 a budget of approximately £2,000 would continue to be needed. A further sum could be utilised to assist local initiatives with planting schemes that supported the "in bloom" campaign and benefited the Town generally.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the decision of the Leamington in Bloom Committee to suspend an entry into the Heart of England In Bloom competition during 2014 is noted;
- (ii) that a provision of £2,000 is made within the budget for 2014-15 to meet expenses associated with the work of the Leamington in Bloom Committee; and
- (iii) that consideration of further matters in relation to Leamington in Bloom is deferred to later in this meeting.

Mrs Simms and Mrs Webb were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

34. TOWN TWINNING MATTERS

(i) Bruhl Anniversary

The Town Clerk reported that following discussions with Warwick District Council no objection had been raised to placing the bench donated by the Mayor of Bruhl in the Pump Room Gardens, as requested by the Committee at the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

(ii) Bruhl Visit – 4-8 September 2014

Colin Beadle confirmed that LITS would require an indication of the potential numbers of people who would be included in any invitation to the Civic Dinner taking place on 6 September. A meeting of LITS on 15 January 2014 would be discussing arrangements for the visit in greater detail.

Reference was made to the current year's budget for the 40th Anniversary celebrations in Bruhl which had resulted in an approximate £2,000 under-spend. The preference was for this sum to be allocated within the 2014-15 budget for expenses incurred during the return visit of the Bruhl delegation to Leamington in September. The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that it had been agreed at the last meeting that detailed arrangements would be discussed by the Twinning Working Group prior to referring back to this Committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) that further discussion on arrangements for the visit of the Bruhl delegation during September 2014 are deferred pending discussions by the Twinning Working Group; and
- (ii) that the Council is recommended that an additional funding of £2,000 is made available within the 2014-15 budget for the arrangements in connection with the visit of the Bruhl delegation.

Mr Beadle was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee, held on 21 November 2013, are approved and signed as a correct record.

36. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Blue Plaques

The Town Clerk reported that at a recent meeting of the Blue Plaque Group the following candidates had been preferred, subject to obtaining appropriate sponsors:

Henry Robinson – Photographer
William Amey – Holder of the Victoria Cross
Benjamin Satchwell – Post Master and Poet

Samuel Lockhart – Elephant Trainer

It had been suggested by the Working Group that the Town Council may wish to sponsor a plaque to Benjamin Satchwell, though, at present there was some uncertainty regarding the precise location of the plaque, since the place of his birth no longer existed.

After considerable discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Council's preferred choice for sponsorship of a Blue Plaque for 2014 is William Amey, VC.

(ii) Lillington Fun Day

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 7) which provided an explanation by the organisers of the Lillington Fun Day regarding the use of surplus funding remaining after payment of all expenses. It had been indicated that due to the donation of various services and activities and a larger than anticipated revenue from various events, a surplus of £1,800 had arisen, of which £1,000 had been donated to the Friends of Lillington Young People and Community.

The Committee expressed concern that the surplus funding had been disbursed without first advising the public funding bodies, such as the Town Council, It was however appreciated that this was not done with any malevolent intent.

RESOLVED that the explanation from the organisers is accepted and that the Monitoring and application Forms are amended to signify a requirement to notify the Town Council of any surplus funds arising in the future.

37. LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 8) concerning Heart of England in Bloom and the matters raised earlier in the meeting. The Town Clerk drew attention to the fact that approximately £5,000 remained from the current year's budget which previously had been allocated to Warwick District Council to meet expenses associated with managing planting schemes in the Town, including those provided in association with Leamington in Bloom.

A cost estimated in the sum of £21,900 had been provided by Warwick District Council but this was not accompanied by a detailed breakdown as requested. Attention was also drawn to difficulties in connection with Warwick District Council's representation at meetings of the Committee and a general unwillingness to participate actively in schemes and projects proposed by the Leamington in Bloom Committee.

It was noted that 2014 was the centenary of the outbreak of World War I and this presented an opportunity to undertake projects of a commemorative nature in partnerships with Leamington in Bloom and other voluntary and local organisations.

Reference was also made to the representation of the Town Council on the Leamington in Bloom Committee and it was suggested, due to his present commitments, that Councillor Lytton is replaced by Councillor Calver.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the remaining surplus funding within the Leamington in Bloom budget in 2013-14 is allocated to support planting schemes conducted by local voluntary organisations; and
- (ii) that the Council is recommended to appoint Councillor Calver as its representative to the Leamington in Bloom Committee.

38. COMMUNITY GRANTS

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 9) containing monitoring information with regard to organisations which had received Community Grants during 2012. The Committee noted that of the 26 grant recipients, 17 had failed to provide a monitoring report, which had necessitated reminder letters from the Town Clerk. Of these, the Town Clerk was pleased to report monitoring information from Warwickshire Association for the Blind, New Hope Counselling and the Gilbert Scott Trust.

The Town Clerk assured the Committee that the outstanding grant recipients would be followed up and further reminders issued in the coming weeks if the monitoring information was not received. The Committee reiterated its previous determination to ensure that applicants provided meaningful feedback to the Council on the outcome of their projects which had been funded with Community Grants.

The Clerk also reported a response from the Operations Manager of Bath Place Community Venture indicating that it had not been possible to implement the Community Café project which had been supported by the Grant fund in the sum of £1750. This was due to difficulties arising from the negotiation of lease agreements on new premises at Clemens Street following the relocation of Bath Place from the former Library at Avenue Road. The Committee noted that this funding had been set aside to be used for its original purpose but there was no immediate prospect of this occurring.

RESOLVED

- (i) that, without prejudice to future applications, Bath Place Community Venture is requested to return the sum of £1750 in full:
- (ii) that the report and action by the Town Clerk in relation to receipt of monitoring information is noted.

39. RELATE WARWICKSHIRE

The Town Clerk briefly updated the Committee in relation to the entry into voluntary liquidation of Relate Warwickshire. He reminded the Committee that in 2013 a grant of £1,722 had been advanced to Relate Warwickshire in connection with a mentoring project, the future of which now appeared uncertain.

On a positive note he had been advised by the Insolvency Services that Coventry Relate had begun to assume some of the commitments of Relate

Cultural & Community Meeting – 2 January 2014

Warwickshire and there was a possibility that the project might be implemented in a modified form.

RESOLVED that the report is noted and further updates made to the Committee as appropriate.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and ended at 8.25pm.

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date.....