

**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held virtually on
Monday 6 July 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present

Councillors Jo Day (Chairperson); Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot (substitute); Chris Foster (substitute); Gary Norman; Elizabeth O’Keeffe; Sarah Slack.

Officers present:

Elisa Adams, Civic Manager

1. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Proposed: Councillor Sue Farrant

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That Councillor Jo Day be elected as Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

There were no other nominations.

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That Councillor Sarah Slack be elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

There were no other nominations.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Councillors Martin Colston and Olivia Lewis

Absent: Councillor Jeffrey Cant and Steve Masters

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

The Civic Manager declared that Councillors Billy Drummond is also a Member of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow him to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

4. Minutes

4.1

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 2nd March 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4.2 The Civic Manager reported the following regarding actions from the previous meeting:

- Minute No 55: Music in the Market Place; Minute No 57: Newbury and District Arts Council; Minute No 60: Local Democracy Week 2020.
- Minute No 65: Mayor's Cadet – will be discussed when required.

5. Questions and petitions from members of the public

There were none.

6. Members' questions and petitions

There were none.

7. Arts in the Town

The Civic Manager welcomes Jane Shillam, Chair of the Newbury and District Arts Association to this meeting to partake in discussions.

Members were reminded to ensure that discussions were kept in line with the current Council Strategy:

- 2.B.3 Support the re-establishment of Art in the Park and other public arts centres
- 1.F.3.B Work with local community groups like the Newbury Society and City Arts to promote and extend the Town Trail and other visual arts initiatives.

Cllr Sue Farrant gave a brief history of what has previously been known as Art On The Park (and will be referred to its correct name in the future). Jane Shillam expressed that she would be in support of Art On The Park however there was discussions about whether the idea is still relevant in comparison to what other arts events are already taking place in the town which have progressed since this initiative was formed 20 years ago.

It was agreed that Councillor Sue Farrant, Councillor Sarah Slack and Councillor Billy Drummond will work with Jane Shillam in doing a feasibility study of Art on the Park and will report back to the next meeting with their findings.

Following Jane's introduction, she expressed the NDAA's goal to lobby for a 2nd arts board in the new 'Gateway To Newbury' Grainger development. Ideas were discussed in relation to requiring more funding for a Newbury Art Trail and that Grainger could be approached for this, as a means to provide direction of the arts (or potentially a new piece) in the development.

The Civic Manager agreed to organise a date with Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Councillor Sue Farrant and Councillor Nigel Foot and Jane Shillam to discuss further ideas and developments for the Town Trail.

The Chairperson and the Civic Manager thanked Jane Shillam for joining our discussions.

8. Newbury Town Civic Awards

8.1

The Civic Manager, Elisa Adams reported that, given the circumstances of the Awards ceremony not taking place this year, the number and quality of nominations for this year’s awards was very successful.

8.2 To consider arrangements for the 2021 Civic Awards

Proposed: Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe

Seconded: Sue Farrant

Resolved: That the Council will host a 2021 Civic Awards Launch Event, acting as a dual celebration for 2020’s winners and nominees. That a special award highlighting the work of community members who have responded to the Covid 19 crisis will be introduced.

Councillor Farrant highlighted the need to those working in the care industry to be recognised. The Civic Manager agreed to make a point of contacting care homes and those working in domicile care to consider being nominated.

The Civic Manager will bring a detailed plan of the event to the next meeting on 7th September 2020.

9. 75th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 2020/VJ Day 15th August 2020

9.1

The Civic Manager noted the alternative events that took place on the day. She also thanked the Town Crier, Brian Sylvester, for his hard work in videoing the Cry for Peace Around the World and The Nation’s Toast.

9.2

Members raised concerns about the space available around the War Memorial and the Town Hall on the 15th August as this would be a Market Day and would be difficult to social distance safely. Suggestions were put in place to have a small ceremony at the Bandstand in Victoria Park following the success of the Black Lives Matter protests however concerns about drawing a crowd for a small ceremony were considered.

It was agreed that the Town Hall steps would be a suitable location for this ceremony with potential for those laying wreaths to make their way to the War Memorial shortly after the ceremony.

The Civic Manager agreed to communicate further plans with the Royal British Legion and the Community Services Team. Promotion for the event would be encouraging safe social distancing.

Proposed: Councillor Jo Day

Seconded: Gary Norman

Resolved: That a small ceremony would take place outside the Town Hall to commemorate VJ Day on the 15th August 2020.

10. **Christ's Hospital School**

Councillor Gary Norman gave a declaration of interest as he is a Governor at a local state school.

Members received the proposal but were concerned about how the word 'endorsed' was used. Options were discussed about amending the wording of the proposal but failed to reach a conclusion. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting on the 7th September 2020, with the Civic Manager circulating suggested wording to Councillors in the meantime to amend the proposal.

11. **Mayor's Cadet**

Proposed: Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe

Seconded: Gary Norman

Resolved: To accept the procedure developed to recognise the role, and appointment process of Mayor's Cadet.

12. **Heritage Open Day 2020**

It was noted that plans for our usual Heritage Open Day event in the Town Hall are likely to not take place. The Civic Manager explained that she is looking at potential virtual ideas and is seeking further guidance from West Berkshire Council and other Councils on a national level for ideas. The Civic Manager will provide an update on arrangements in the next meeting on the 7th September 2020.

13. **Local Democracy Week 2020**

It was noted that there was nothing to update since our previous meeting. The Civic Manager expressed concerns about the likelihood of this years event going ahead as planned. It was agreed that the Civic Manager arranges a Working Group meeting to

discuss potential alternative ideas following on from the progress made in 2019's event.

14. Music in the Market Place

The Civic Manager provided a written update from Cllr David Marsh. Cllr Marsh explained that he hoped the event will be able to continue in 2021 and will be keeping in close contact with Kennet Radio and feeding back information to the Civic Manager on the progress.

The Chairperson thanked David for his continued progress on this event.

15. Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community

The information regarding the works done to raise the profile of the Council in the Community was received and noted by the Committee. The Chairperson thanked the Civic Manager for work that has been put into the letters over the past few months due to the sheer volume of letters required.

The Civic Manager thanked the Mayor of Newbury for her assistance in helping get letters to those residents who are harder to reach.

16. Civic Events

- a. The information regarding Civic events held since the last meeting of this committee was received and noted. While the majority of the events that were due to take place were cancelled, it was noted that alternative plans were executed for the Civic Awards and VE Day.
- b. The information relating to future Civic Events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee. The next up and coming event in the calendar is:
 - VJ Day Celebration – Saturday 15th August 2020.
- c. Potential future events or activities:
 - It was noted that Members would like to plan something to celebrate the end of the pandemic.

17. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee meetings 2020/21.

The following item is to be added to the Forward Work Programme:

- Newbury Football Ground – it was understood by all Members that this would be in relation to spreading the message in terms of football and spectatorship being a leisure activity for the town and if there is anything the Council can try to do to help them. It was actioned to invite a representative from the Newbury Community

Football Group to come and speak at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairperson:

Date: