

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee held in the Council Chamber on Monday 2 September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Jo Day, Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot, David Harman, Chris Hood, Andy Moore, Gary Norman and Graham Storey

Officers Present: Toby Miles-Mallowan (Chief Executive Officer) Joanna Aylott (Civic Manager) and Amy Xing (Civic Officer)

22. Apologies

There were none – all in attendance.

23. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot and Phil Barnett are also members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf, and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

24. Minutes

Proposed: Billy Drummond

Seconded: Vera Barnett

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts and Culture Committee held on 1st July 2024 were approved.

Actions from the previous meeting were all fulfilled, with items to be discussed as part of this meeting's agenda. It was noted that Councillor Phil Barnett is willing to join the VE day working group.

25. Questions and Petitions from Members of the Public

There were none.

26. Members' Questions and Petitions

There were none.

27. Reordering of the Agenda

Proposed: Jo Day

Seconded: Billy Drummond

Resolved: It was agreed to consider items 7, 9 and 13 on the agenda next in consideration of Helen Mannerings, Chairwoman from the Royal British Legion Women's Section who attended the meeting. The minutes reflect the order of the meeting.

28. Update on Remembrance Sunday

The Chairperson introduced Helen Mannerings, Chairwoman from the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on this year's Remembrance Sunday planning. A meeting had been held with key stakeholders on 14th August with the Royal British

Legion and other representatives including Thames Valley Police, Kennet Radio, Scouts and Guides, Civic Team etc to discuss planning for the Parade this year. All is progressing well.

Councillor Andy Moore, who attended the planning meeting, noted that proposed changes to parade formation in the Market Place will mean younger attendees of the parade should be at the front and able to see.

The Chairperson encouraged attendance for all Councillors.

29. VE Day 80th Anniversary – 8th May 2025

It was noted that as per the minutes of the last meeting, a Working Group will be formed to recognise the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The Civic Manager is to suggest a date for a meeting for this Working Group, which will be held shortly after Remembrance Sunday. Invitations will be sent to all those who have offered to be part of this Working Group, and to the RBL so that we can have a united approach in planning for this important event.

The following volunteered to be part of the Working Group; Jo Day, Andy Moore, Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Graham Storey and Toby Miles-Mallowan. Helen Mannerings advised she would relay this back to the relevant people at RBL.

30. Service at War Memorial for Afghanistan

Councillor Jo Day invited Helen Mannerings from the RBL to speak about the service they hope to hold at the War Memorial to recognise those who served in Afghanistan. She requested the use of the War Memorial on Sunday the 15th December 2024 for the service. She noted that we have a large contingent of service personnel in the area that have served in Afghanistan.

Toby Miles-Mallowan raised that there is due to be a Christmas Market in the town on this date, so considerations need to be made to request space is reserved for the memorial to take place.

Councillor Gary Norman voiced his support for the event and requested West Berkshire Council be informed so that sufficient road closure orders were issued.

Proposed: David Harman

Seconded: Andy Moore

Resolved: The Committee approved the use of the War Memorial for the Service on the 15th December. Helen gave her thanks.

31. Update from Local Democracy Working Group

Councillor Jo Day noted that we have had a good response rate from both Primary and Secondary Schools for Local Democracy Week, even though we were late in sending out invitations this year. More volunteers were requested to hold sessions for Primary Schools during LDW from 7th to 18th October. Councillors were also encouraged to volunteer for flexible sessions for Secondary Schools.

The Local Democracy Working Group are also keen to further develop engagement with local young people outside of schools. Councillor Jo Day gave a report from a meeting on the 9th August with Kerrie Hiscock, the lead for Youth Voice and Participation at Berkshire Youth to discuss new ways in which we could engage young people. Youth Group meetings put forward by Kerrie Hiscock were announced and it was noted that if there were keen councillors who wished to drop into those sessions on a routine basis, it may better involve young people in the workings of the council instead of a one-off visit.

Councillors Billy Drummond and Gary Norman expressed willingness to participate in the group at the Greenham Community Centre. Councillor Jo Day put herself forward as a potential for the group at the Waterside Café.

It was suggested that all Councillors, based on ward, are invited to see if they are interested in these groups. An item surrounding this is to be put to Full Council at the next meeting in October.

Councillor Jo Day also suggested encouraging engagement of adults, whether through Saturday Surgeries or other means to reach out to other adults in the community. The next LDWG meeting will focus on LDW, but moving forward it was proposed that the LDWG try to look at ways to reach more adults/young adults. Ideas to be discussed at the next LDWG meeting and put forward at the next Committee meeting.

32. Heritage Open Day

It was noted that Heritage Open Day will be taking place on Saturday 14th September 2024. The Civic Manager advised the Committee that the Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers have agreed to exhibit at the event. Councillor Billy Drummond agreed to volunteer for the afternoon slot on the day.

33. Art on the Park

Councillor Jo Day gave a verbal report from the Art on the Park event on Sunday 25th August. Feedback from the event was positive, and the general feel was that people would recommend the event to local artists. Plans for next year were discussed at the wash-up meeting and it was agreed to focus on the August event again next year. The organisers expressed their thanks to NTC and volunteers for their continued support.

34. Newbury Town Flag Display

It was noted that the Newbury Town Flag display is to be unveiled on the 17th October 2024 at the Town Hall. The time of the event is to be confirmed by the Civic Manager and put to all Councillors as soon as possible for them to confirm their attendance.

35. Flying the Town Flag from the Town Hall

The Town Council's Flag Flying Policy draft was reviewed by the Committee. Councillor Gary Norman suggested the policy be reduced for simplification.

Proposed: Andy Moore

Seconded: Gary Norman

Resolved: The Committee agreed that further refining of the policy was needed. The Chief Executive Officer will work on this policy to be reviewed at the next meeting of this Committee.

36. Civic Manager's Reports

The Civic Manager presented a report on 'Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community'. The Meeting received the list of Mayoral letters sent since the last meeting of the Council. Thanks were expressed to the Civic Officer for putting out these letters.

37. Civic Events

The information regarding the 60th Anniversary of Twinning with Braunfels (22nd July) and Art on the Park (25th August) held since the last meeting of this Committee was received and noted.

Information relating to future Civic Events was noted including the Annual Bowls Match, (4th September), Heritage Open Day (14th September) Local Democracy Events (from 7th October), Town Flag Display Unveiling (17th October), Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service (10th November), and VE Day 80th Anniversary (8th May 2025).

Councillor Gary Norman noted that the Newbury Road Club are coming up to their 100th anniversary in 2025 and would like to commemorate this with a blue plaque on the Town Hall.

This is being put to the Heritage Working Group. An event will be taking place on Saturday 5th July and was described as a 'festival of cycling'. They have already been in touch with the BID, West Berkshire Council and Newbury Velo. An item regarding this is to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee.

Councillor Gary Norman also noted that Community United would like to host an event on Saturday 28th June 2025 in Victoria Park. An item regarding this is to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee.

38. Twin Town Signage & Trail

The outgoing Civic Manager's feasibility study on installing physical plaques about each Twin Town in Victoria Park was presented. It was suggested the plaques need to be focussed or organised around something in the park such as the bandstand or a sundial.

Councillors were asked for other ideas to be brought to the next meeting. Councillors Billy Drummond, David Harman and Gary Norman agreed to form a Working Group for Twin Town signage. Councillor Jo Day agreed to investigate the feasibility of a sundial in Victoria Park.

39. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee Meetings 2024/25

Noted. Councillors requested to add the following to the Forward Work Programme:

- Twin Town Signage
- Newbury Road Club Event
- Community United Event

40. Newbury Town Band

The agreement between Newbury Town Council and the Newbury Town Band was reviewed.

Proposed: Gary Norman

Seconded: Andy Moore

Resolved: The Committee agreed to recommend an increase in the annual retainer for 2025/2026 to £700, to be reviewed annually. This is to be put to Full Council for approval.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm.

Chairperson:

Date: