

**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held virtually on  
Monday 7 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Present**

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Councillors Jo Day (Chairperson); Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot (substitute); Elizabeth O’Keeffe; Sarah Slack.

**Officer present:**

Elisa Adams, Civic Manager

**18. Apologies for absence**

Apologies: Councillor Gary Norman

Absent: Councillors Steve Masters and Jeffrey Cant

**19. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

The Civic Manager declared that Councillor 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.

**20. Minutes**

**20.1**

**Proposed:** Councillor Billy Drummond

**Seconded:** Councillor Sarah Slack

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 6 July 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

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

- Minute No 7: Arts in the Town; Minute No 8: Newbury Town Civic Awards; Minute 10: Christ’s Hospital School – actions taken and will be discussed when required.
- Minute No 9: VJ Day 15<sup>th</sup> August – event took place and a report on the event will be discussed.
- Minute No 12: Heritage Open Day 2020 – alternative plans have been arranged and will be discussed when required
- Minute No 13: Local Democracy Week – a Working Group Meeting took place with the outcomes to be discussed when required.

**21. Questions and petitions from members of the public**

There were none.

**22. Members' questions and petitions**

There were none.

**23. Art on The Park**

Cllr Sue Farrant reported that following discussions with Newbury & District Arts Association and Newbury Art Group, they have members who are very enthusiastic about the prospect of getting Art on the Park back up and running. It was also reported that Newbury Art Group have a small pot of money which they would be keen to use for this project.

It was agreed that Cllr Farrant, Cllr Foot and Cllr Drummond would arrange a meeting with Newbury Art Group to look at the scope of getting this event back up and running, with an aim for Summer 2021.

It was noted that the success of previous events was dependent on volunteer stewards. Cllr O'Keeffe suggested contacting the Corn Exchange to see if any of their volunteer stewards may be interested.

**24. Newbury Art Trail**

The Civic Manager reported on the outcomes of a meeting with Cllr Farrant, Cllr Foot, Cllr O'Keeffe and Jane Shillam from Newbury & District Arts Association.

It was suggested for further research to take place into the history of the art pieces in Newbury, and to make use of the website to publish information, which can be updated as and when required when new information about pieces is discovered. Another small meeting with the Civic Manager and the Councillors listed above will take place before the next meeting.

The Civic Manager also advised that there were further earmarked reserves budgeted for the Town Trail to be used. Cllr Farrant agreed to approach Greenham Trust to look at the possibility of match funding for any potential future projects.

**25. Newbury Town Civic Awards**

The Civic Manager presented detailed plans for the 2021 Civic Awards, which included plans for a Launch Event (and Covid 19 contingencies) and ideas for a new Community Champions Award.

The Deputy Leader of the Council suggested an open competition for the design of a pin badge for the new award. The Civic Manager and Chairperson will further investigate this, sharing ideas with the rest of the Committee before the next meeting.

**26. Heritage Open Day**

**Proposed:** Cllr Martin Colston

**Seconded:** Cllr Olivia Lewis

**Resolved:** That this year's Heritage Open Day will be acknowledged through a visual display of the history and heritage of the Town Hall on our notice boards, and for an online quiz to be shared through the week via our website and social media platforms.

**27. Local Democracy Week 2020**

The Chairperson reported that our usual Local Democracy event is unable to take place this year, and that Primary and Secondary schools will be informed that they would like to invited them to visit the Town Hall and to host the event as soon as in convenient. The situation will be reviewed over the course of the year, in the hope that we don't have to wait until Autumn 2021 for our next event to take place.

**28. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020/VJ Day 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

The Chairperson reported on the events that took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> August. It was noted that they were appropriate commemorations for the current circumstances, and they were well received.

The Civic Manager thanked all those who participated in the VE/VJ 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations Working Group.

**29. Remembrance Sunday 2020**

The Civic Manager explained that circumstances regarding this year's Remembrance Sunday will be under constant review and will be subject to change at any time in the lead up to the event itself.

A number of ideas and suggestions were put forward by Members, the Civic Manager agreed to share at the next Remembrance Sunday planning meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Cllr Elizabeth O'Keeffe

**Resolution:** That the Council will consider a reduced number parade and service for this year's Remembrance Sunday, subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

### 30. Mayor's Benevolent Fund Christmas Gift Review

The Civic Manager presented a proposal and a draft application form for this year's Mayor's Benevolent Fund Christmas Giving.

**Resolved:** That new arrangements are in place for providing Mayor's Benevolent Fund gifts to those in need at Christmas time.

- This proposal failed to gain support due to some rewording that felt required on the application form. The following amendment was suggested:

**Proposed:** Cllr Elizabeth O'Keeffe

**Seconded:** Cllr Martin Colston

**Resolved:** That new arrangements are in place, *subject to noted rewording of the application form*, for providing Mayor's Benevolent Fund gifts to those in need at Christmas time.

The Civic Manager agreed to reword the form and send to the Committee to review by the middle of October, as the form will be required to use before the next Committee meeting is due to take place.

It was also noted that we should consider looking at how we can provide support to those who may require it in completing the form.

### 31. Christ's Hospital School

Amendments were made to the wording of this proposal following its deferral from the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**Proposed:** Cllr Sue Farrant

**Seconded:** Cllr Martin Colston

**Resolved:** That the Council acknowledges the link that Newbury Town has with Christ's Hospital School and to make the existence of the Wests' Gift scholarship known amongst schools in our catchment area.

### 32. 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 Chairperson also thanked the Mayor, Cllr Elizabeth O’Keeffe, for her efforts in reaching out and visiting local businesses as they reopened, keeping up the Council presence in the town. This was echoed by other Councillors in the meeting.

### **33. Civic Events**

- a. The information regarding Civic events held since the last meeting of this committee was received and noted. The Mayor, Cllr Elizabeth O’Keeffe, thanked the local businesses and Councillors who supported the Mayor’s Treasure Hunt fundraising event for the Mayor’s Benevolent Fund.
- 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:
  - Heritage Open Days Festival – 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The Civic Manager encouraged everyone to share and promote the quiz.
  - Remembrance Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- c. Potential future events or activities:

The Mayor suggested that following the success of the Mayor’s Treasure Hunt to try and look at similar event options to engage younger children. Ideas will be discussed with the Civic Manager.

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

It was agreed that the following would be added to the Forward Working Programme for the next November meeting:

- Review the feasibility of Local Democracy Event
- Review outcomes of Art on the Park meeting.

**There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.**

**Chairperson:**

**Date:**