

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee held in the Council Chamber on Monday 3 July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors Phil Barnett; Vera Barnett, Jo Day, Billy Drummond; David Harman; Chris Hood; Steve Masters; Gary Norman and Meg Thomas

Officers present:

Virginia Robins, Civic Manager (Maternity Cover)
Hugh Peacocke, CEO

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Civic Manager invited nominations for the Chairperson of the Committee for this Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Phil Barnett

Seconded: Councillor Billy Drummond

Resolved: That Councillor Jo Day be elected Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee for 2023-2024.

There were no other nominations for the post.

The Chairperson invited nominations for the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for this Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Jo Day

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That Councillor Meg Thomas be elected Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee for 2023-2024.

There were no other nominations for the post.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Councillor Nigel Foot

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

The Civic Manager declared that Councillors Phil Barnett and Billy Drummond 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. Councillors Phil Barnett and Billy Drummond also announced that that they were members of the Newbury Twin Town Association.

4. Minutes

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee held on Monday 27th February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

5. Actions from previous meeting

Actions were completed and further outcomes to be discussed through relevant agenda items in this meeting.

The Civic Manager reported on the status of follow up actions from Item 64 – Ebb and Flow Information Panel to ‘Work with local historians to approve draft wording to bring to next Committee Meeting.’ The draft text had been supplied by Newbury Historian David Peacocke that week and will be forwarded to councillors for their review.

6. Questions and petitions from members of the public

There were none.

7. Members’ questions and petitions

There were none.

8. Report on Mayor Making

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on this year’s Mayor-Making ceremony, held in The Corn Exchange on Sunday 14th May 2023. The Civic Manager reported that there had been extensive feedback from the Civic Team and from Councillors. The general feedback was very positive but several comments had been made about sound issues on the stage and the length of speeches. These would all be considered in the plans for next year which would be on the Work Programme for the February 2024 meeting of the Committee.

9. Report and Review Civic Award Presentation Evening

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on this year’s Civic Awards Ceremony. Planning for next year’s event is on the Work Programme for the October 2023 meeting of the Committee.

The meeting heard that one of the suggestions arising was to introduce a new Civic Award next year, for Local Groups, in addition to the Awards already in place. A larger venue might also have to be considered.

Proposed: Councillor Steve Masters

Seconded: Councillor Phil Barnett

Resolved: To introduce a new Civic Award next year, for Local Groups, in addition to the Awards already in place.

10. **Heritage Open Day**

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on this year's Heritage Open Day. It was noted that the theme for this year's heritage events would be "Creativity Unwrapped". This year's event in Newbury will take place on Saturday 9th September.

The Civic Manager advised Members that this event could not proceed without Councillor volunteers. All members will be asked to confirm their availability by 31st July and if there are not enough volunteers then the event will not take place.

Proposed: Councillor David Harman

Seconded: Councillor Jo Day

Resolved: To hold a Heritage Open day event in the Town Hall from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturday 9th September, subject to volunteers being available to support the event.

11. **Local Democracy Working Group**

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Phil Barnett

11.1 Resolved: To Approve the terms of reference for the Local Democracy Working Group.

11.2 To Appoint the following members to the Working Group: Councillors Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Jo Day, Billy Drummond, Steve Masters, Gary Norman, Meg Thomas and Martha Vickers.

The meeting agreed that the Chairperson and the Civic Manager set a date for the Working Group to meet.

Primary and secondary schools will be contacted this week to invite them to take part in the Local Democracy Initiative between 9th and 20th October.

12. **Twin Towns signage**

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager and agreed for officers to explore with the Newbury Town Twinning Association proposals for a sign in the town centre to celebrate and promote Newbury's Twin Towns. Such proposals to be considered in the context of next year's budget.

Proposed: Councillor Gary Norman

Seconded: Councillor David Harman

Resolved: The recommendation to explore options with the NTTA and the Council for a town centre sign instead of approach road signs was approved.

13. Ebb and Flow information Panel Refurbishment

The Civic Manager updated the Committee on this matter. The draft text from local historian David Peacocke will be forwarded to councillors for their review. There is no budget to pay for the replacement of the panel this year.

14. Mayoral letters

The Meeting received the list of Mayoral letters sent since the last meeting of the Council. The Civic Manager reminded Members that they were encouraged to make the Mayor aware of any persons or organisations who might deserve a letter from the Mayor in recognition of their achievements, successes or work in the community. Councillor Billy Drummond requested that a weekly update goes out to councillors so they are aware of the latest recipients of the congratulations letters. It was also requested that all members be encouraged to share the council's social media posts.

15. Town Hall Flag-Flying Policy

Councillors discussed the current situation with the Ukrainian flag flying outside the Town Hall. A new Ukrainian flag will be delivered this week and it could be an opportunity to have an official ceremony marking the replacement of the old flag with a new one. A date has been identified for an event – 1 September - which is the Day of Knowledge in Ukraine. Further discussions will take place with the Ukrainian community in Newbury to ascertain their thoughts on a special occasion.

Proposed: Councillor Jo Day

Seconded: Councillor Vera Barnett

Resolved: That an event may take place once views from the Ukrainian community have been received.

16. Civic Events

- a. The information regarding Civic Events held since the last meeting of this committee was received and noted.
- b. The information relating to future Civic Events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee.
- c. No new ideas were put forward for suggestions for future events and activities.

17. Newbury Spring Festival

The Committee received a report from Councillor Jo Day, the Council’s representative on this event.

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Vera Barnett

Resolved: That the Council supports this event, subject to available resources.

18. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee Meetings.

Noted.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairperson:

Date: