

**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held virtually on
Monday 1 March 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Councillors Jo Day (Chairperson); Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Olivia Lewis; Steve Masters; Gary Norman & Elizabeth O’Keeffe

Officer present:

Elisa Adams, Civic Manager

52. Apologies for absence

None

53. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

The Civic Manager declared that Councillors Billy Drummond and Steve Masters 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.

54. Minutes

54.1

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Martin Colston

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 30th November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

54.2 Actions from previous meeting

Actions were completed by the Civic Manager and further outcomes to be discussed through relevant agenda items.

55. Questions and petitions from members of the public

There were none.

56. Members' questions and petitions

There were none.

57. Newbury Twin Town Association.

The Chairperson welcomed Gillian Durrant to the meeting, Chair of the Newbury Twin Town Association. A report was received reflecting on their activities from the past year, and the struggles that they have faced due to Covid-19.

A question was asked regarding new signage to reflect our most recent twinning with Carcaixent. The Civic Manager will check what reserves are earmarked and will work with the NTTA to investigate solutions can be done to either replace or amend the current signage on the town's approach roads.

Members were enthusiastic about wanting to do more in representing our Twin Towns throughout Newbury and felt that more could be done in addition to the approach road signs into Newbury. Some ideas suggested included having a sign on the outside of the Town Hall showcasing our Twin Towns (which The Leader suggested could be a possible, less costly solution until funds were available to replace or adjust the approach road signage) and hanging each Twin Town's flag from the Town Hall on the date of the anniversary of when Newbury twinned with them.

The Civic Manager agreed to further investigate these options, and to bring a report back to the next meeting providing more information.

58. Newbury Town Trail

Following a brief discussion of the Newbury Town Trails concept, Cllr Martin Colston advised that it would be a good idea to speak to Newbury BID who have previously expressed interest in supporting the idea of town trails.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Farrant

Seconded: Cllr Olivia Lewis

Resolved: Arrangements to introduce Newbury Town Trails concept was approved to move forward with planning.

The Civic Manager agreed to contact the Newbury BID to see if they would be able to support the concept.

59. Art On The Park

Cllr Sue Farrant provided an update on progress she had made towards discussions to bring back Art On The Park.

While there wasn't much to update on, due to the difficulty of planning a meeting during Lockdown, the Committee were assured that Newbury & District Arts Association and Newbury Art Group were both interested in bringing the event back for Summer 2021.

Members were happy to support both groups in the instigation of Art on the Park for Summer 2021.

The Civic Manager agreed to support by exploring dates during August in which the groups can make use of Victoria Park, including the Bank Holiday weekend.

60. Newbury Town Civic Awards 2021

The Civic Manager provided an update that nominations for the Civic Awards had taken place and that the awards will be presented by a pre-recorded video which will premier on the Town Council Facebook page and website on Wednesday 17th March at 7pm

The Council also noted the pin badge competition for the Community Champions Award had taken place, won by 8 year old Suraiya Sheikh.

A report on the Civic Awards 2021 will be brought to the next meeting.

61. Local Democracy Working Group

61.1 The minutes from the Local Democracy Working Group meetings taking place on 19th January 2021 & 9th February 2021 were noted

61.2 The Committee was presented with the Working Group Terms of Reference

Proposed: Cllr Jo Day

Seconded: Cllr Gary Norman

Resolved: The Terms of Reference for Local Democracy Working Group were approved.

61.3 Members thanked the Civic Manager and the Local Democracy Working Group for the effort that had been put into making the Youth Voice Survey a success, and look forward to seeing what event comes out of the results of the survey.

A decision was to be taken on approving the survey report;

Proposed: Cllr Gary Norman

Seconded: Cllr Martin Colston

Resolved: The survey report which tells the outcomes of the Youth Voice Survey was approved to be shared among partner organisations, schools, all members and Link Councillors.

It was noted by the Civic Manager to make sure Clay Hill Community Centre and Greenham Community Youth Project are included in these communications.

62. Mayor Making

The Civic Manager provided a verbal update on the current working arrangements for Mayor Making 2021.

This was noted by the Committee, and further information will be presented at the Policy & Resources meeting taking place on the 26th April 2021.

63. Newbury Town Council Silver Anniversary

The Committee noted that Newbury Town Council will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in May 2022. Members agreed that they would like to move forward in marking the occasion, but events could coincide with the next agenda item.

64. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Committee noted that Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee would take place in June 2022.

Members liked the idea of hosting an event in Victoria Park to commemorate the occasion, as well as the Town Council's silver anniversary.

Members have been invited to email the Civic Manager with any ideas on how to commemorate both events which will be put into a report for the next meeting.

65. Mayor's Drive and Tea Party

It was noted by the committee that the Mayor's Drive and Tea Party would not be taking place this year, and organisers didn't want to look into alternative options for the event.

Cllr Billy Drummond, Deputy Mayor, expressed that he would be interested in running an event during his year if elected as Mayor, potentially a tea party in Victoria Park. Councillors felt disappointed that the event wouldn't be running for a second year, but would be in support if the incoming Mayor would like to host an afternoon tea party event as part of the Mayor's Benevolent Fund when it is safe to do so.

66. Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Newbury

Cllr Sarah Slack presented ideas that had been raised following her involvement in a Community United West Berkshire event, that the Covid pandemic had highlighted the inequalities in diverse communities. The event highlighted the need for communities to act towards inequalities and to promote social cohesion. Cllr Slack suggested that this could be done through supporting and acknowledging cultural and religious festivals and events that take place throughout the year.

Members were in support that the Council should do more to promote social cohesion. It was agreed that the Civic Manager would work with Cllr Slack to support the development of the idea and would report back to the next meeting.

67. Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community

Letters of congratulations were noted by the Committee. The Civic Manager and the Mayor were thanked for the work that has been put into this scheme and hope for the long continuation of it.

68. 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. Future events include:
 - Virtual Civic Awards Presentation on 17th March 2021. All members will receive an invitation to watch the event.
 - Mayor Making. The agenda noted the 16th May date, however the agenda was published before decisions were explored regarding new Mayor Making plans.

- c. Potential future events or activities:
No ideas received

69. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee Meetings

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

- Newbury Twin Town Association
- Report on ideas for Silver Anniversary & Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Mayor’s Drive & Tea Party alternative event
- Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Newbury

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

Chairperson:

Date: