MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CIVIC PRIDE, ARTS & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors Howard Bairstow; David Fish; Dave Goff; Sarah Greenall; Arthur Johnson; Margo Payne (Chairperson); Anthony Pick; Kuldip Singh Kang; Tony Stretton; Julian Swift-Hook; Martha Vickers (named substitute).

OFFICERS PRESENT: Joyce Lewis, Civic Manager and Margaret Gore, Corporate Services Officer.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dave Goff presided over the Election of the Chairperson

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

PROPOSED: Councillor Sarah Greenall **SECONDED:** Councillor David Fish

RESOLVED: That Councillor Margo Payne be elected as Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

Councillor Margo Payne took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chairperson, Councillor Margo Payne thanked Councillor Kuldip Singh Kang for his work as Chairperson for the previous year and all the help he gave to other Members.

PROPOSED: Councillor Julian Swift-Hook **SECONDED:** Councillor Howard Bairstow

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jo Day be elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

There were no other nominations.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Jo Day, Jeanette Clifford.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors Howard Bairstow, Dave Goff and Anthony Pick declared that they 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.

4. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Kuldip Singh Kang **SECONDED:** Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on 8 February 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

5. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Mercado asked the following question:

"Has the Civic Pride Committee of Newbury Town Council any authority to express its concern to any local commercial business or authority regarding the up keeping of its land or premises which may appear neglected and thus detrimental to the appearance of Newbury Town?"

The Chairperson gave the following response:

The appearance of Newbury Town is a matter of great importance to this Council.

We do all in our power to ensure that the Town is looking well both for the people and communities of the Town and for our visitors.

For instance:

- We take great pride about properties in our ownership and care, such as The Town Hall, Victoria Park and other parks and open spaces throughout the Town, as well as the 2 Cemeteries for which we are responsible. Recently we have repainted and restored the exterior of the Town Hall, as well as putting up hanging baskets on the Hall. We have just finished an extensive programme of planting in all our parks and supplied hanging baskets to a number of other properties in town.
- This year we have re-introduced our "Newbury in Bloom" campaign and the aims of the campaign are to:
 - Create an attractive and sustainable environment making Newbury a greener, cleaner and more pleasant place to live;
 - Promote horticultural excellence and improve the appearance of our town and environment;
 - Bring together all sectors of the community; individuals; friends; groups and businesses who wish to care for our environment;
 - Support the local economy by promoting tourism and encouraging visitors to stop and enjoy our beautiful town.
- The Town Council expends considerable resources through our landscapes contract to keep the Town looking well, including litter control, grass cutting and the removal of fly-posting and graffiti where required.
- Newbury has a very fine stock of listed buildings and the Council has an active Heritage Working Group which works closely with the District Council's Conservation Officers to protect these buildings and their features.
- We work closely with our partners in the BID and the District Council to address these issues and to maintain the physical and environmental qualities of Newbury. Regarding the upkeep and appearance of buildings or premises which may appear neglected and thus detrimental to the appearance of Newbury Town, while the Town Council can express its concern in these matters the statutory authority to deal with them lies with West Berkshire District Council. The District Council has a wide range of powers, including Building Control, where the building represents a danger or hazard to the public, powers to protect listed buildings and powers under section 215

of the Planning Acts which provides a local planning authority with the power to take steps requiring land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area.

The Town Council works closely with the District Council to address matters of this nature. However, when dealing with commercial properties for issues such as this it can often be difficult to contact the owners or to find someone with the authority or wish to address these matters, which can often lead to inaction or frustrating delays.

If there are particular buildings or lands which you feel need attention, please let us know and we will endeavour to have the matter resolved. While we do not have the authority we can still pass on the details to the relevant body with our concerns.

Mr Mercado asked the following supplementary question:

"Mr Mercado thanked Madam Chairperson for her reply but felt this didn't answer his question which he then repeated."

The Chairperson gave the following response:

"No this Committee does not have the authority to express its concerns however, if you provide this council with a written list of your concerns we will forward them to the relevant organisations."

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

7. CIVIC PRIDE ARTS AND LEISURE STRATEGY REVIEW

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Members consider any changes that are to be made and forward them to Joyce Lewis, Civic Manager. Any changes that have been submitted will be considered at the next meeting of this committee scheduled for Monday 5 September 2016.

8. NEWBURY ART TRAIL STEERING GROUP

Members received a verbal report From Councillor Goff, Chairperson to the Newbury Art Trail Steering Group.

"I and other Members of this Council have been very busy with work and other Working Groups so there has not been a meeting of Newbury Art Trail Working Group since I last reported to this Committee. It is my intention to organise a meeting in the near future with the intention to discuss the following:

- Review of the Working Groups Terms of Reference
- To consider putting together a leaflet explaining the Art Trail
- The Walks organised by the Heritage Working Group should also be linked to this group so as to include the Art Trail pieces

9. MUSIC IN THE MARKET PLACE – SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2016

Members received a verbal update from Councillor Arthur Johnson on the Music in the Market Place event scheduled to be held on Sunday 14 August 2016 between 12 noon and 5pm.

- A poster for Music in the Market Place will be available by the end of the month.
- Four bands are confirmed to play.
- All the organisation is going well so far.

10. NEWBURY TOWN CIVIC AWARD PRESENTATION EVENING

It was noted that there were not very many nominations this year for the Young Person's category. It was agreed that this be reviewed at the meeting scheduled for November 2016. If any Member/Officers have suggestions on how to make this a more successful event please could they forward their comments to Joyce Lewis, Civic Manager for example: should this be a standalone event?

11. MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY HELD ON 15 MAY 2016

The report regarding the Mayor Making Ceremony, as attached to the agenda at appendix 4 was received and noted by the Committee.

12. WORLD WARS WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the World Wars Working Group meetings held on 24 February, 6 April and 24 May 2016.

It was noted that the talk for 15th July had been missed off the list shown on the agenda.

13. QE 90

The minutes of the QE90 Working Group meetings held on 2 March, 12 April & 10 May 2016 were received and noted by the Committee.

The Chairperson thanked all Members / Officers involved in the organisation of the Picnic in the Park which was a great success.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dave Goff asked that his thanks to Councillor Margo Payne and her Team and the Civic Manager and her team for organising the Picnic in the Park event be recorded.

14. NEWBURY IN BLOOM

The minutes of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group meetings held on 11 February, 14 March, 15 April and 17 May 2016 were received and noted by the Committee.

It was noted that there had been five entries to each category so far. There is still time for other entries. The closing date for entries is Thursday 30 June 2016.

15. TWIN TOWN REUNION

The report regarding the Twin Town Reunion, as attached to the agenda at appendix 8 was received and noted by the Committee.

16. 20th ANNIVERSARY OF NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL IN MAY 2017

It was agreed that it would be important to recognising the 20th anniversary of Newbury Town Council in during May 2017. The actual date that this council came into being was 22 May 1997.

It was agreed that the Civic Manager contact all Members of this Council to ask for ideas as to how this date should be celebrated, giving a date for comments to be returned. Once comments have been received a Working Group should be organised to discuss further. If any Councillors are interested in being part of the Working Group please could they inform the Chairperson, Councillor Margo Payne and the Civic Manager, Joyce Lewis.

17. NEWBURY TO BECOME A FAIRTRADE TOWN

It was agreed that to become a Fairtrade Town should be a council led initiative. A Steering Group needs to be set up including all sections of the community including the BID. All Newbury Town Councillors to be invited to join the Steering Group to progress this objective prior to inviting other organisations to join.

18. TOWN HALL OPEN DAY/WEEKEND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEKEND.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that an Open Evening rather than an Open Day/Week would take place. An e-mail is to be sent to all Members of this council to ask for advice / suggestions of what they would like included. This item will be reviewed at a future meeting.

19. JOHN KIMBERS CHEST

The information was received and noted by the Committee.

20. DISCUSSION OF PAST AND POTENTIAL FUTURE EVENTS

- a) The information relating to previous events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee.
- b) Future events:
 - Sunday 26 June 2016 Rotary Club annual Boules event
 - Saturday 16 July 2016 Culture Fest
 - Sunday 24 July 2016 Tigris Memorial Service at St Nicolas Church

Member were encouraged to contact the organiser of the Rotary Club annual Boules event and Culture Fest if they could help in anyway. Members were also encourage to attend the Tigris Memorial Service.

c) This item was moved to Item 21 on the agenda.

21. CIVIC EVENTS

- a) The information provided by the Civic Manager was received and noted by the Committee.
- b) The information relating to future Civic Events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee.

It was noted that:

- i) Members were encourage to attend and wear their formal regalia
- ii) The Mayor's Drive & Tea Party scheduled for Wednesday 6 July drivers still required. If anyone is available could they please let The Civic Manager know?
- iii) The Twin Town Association is still looking for volunteers to host visitors from our Twin Towns during 8-12th September. An e-mail is to be forwarded to all Members regarding this matter.
- c) The following suggestions were made:
 - i) Councillor Martha Vickers suggested that we revisit the idea of a Public Art Gallery in the Civic Entrance on Saturdays as was previously organised by former councillor Julie Csala. However, it was noted that it was stopped as no one could give the time that Mrs Csala gave to such an event. This would be a very big commitment to take on.
 - ii) It was also suggested that this Council allow the use of Suite 1 for events until such times that it is leased to another organisation.
 - iii) Councillor Fish noted that the CPA&L Strategy mentions Sports and that this Council hasn't been involved in anything sport related. The Chairperson encouraged Councillor Fish to consider what this council could do and bring his suggestions to a future meeting of this Committee.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20PM.

CHAIRPERSON