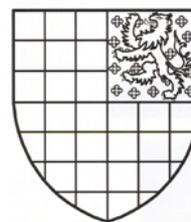


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events, held on **Tuesday 17th February 2015**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); R Murray; R O'Keeffe and Cllr Dr M Turner

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Mrs F Garth (*Civic Officer/ Asst TC*).

CmemsWP2014/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Allsobrook and Mayhew, who had work commitments.

CmemsWP2014/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

CmemsWP2014/18 QUESTIONS: There were none. (No members of the public present.)

CmemsWP2014/19 MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2014 were received and signed as an accurate record.

CmemsWP2014/20 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

1 *100yrs since commencement of 1st World War:* There was general discussion on the events so far, and those in prospect. The "Winter of the World" (WoW) project had culminated in a very well-attended and well-regarded evening of music; poetry, and dramatization, performed with an emotive backdrop of contemporary WW1 photographs, at the All Saints Centre on 26th October. The ASC was booked from the afternoon of Saturday 26th September through the day of Sunday 27th September 2015, to allow an event on the Saturday and a series of films on the Sunday. The original suggestion of a stage performance of Kipling's "My Boy Jack" had proved to be impractical, but the film version was readily obtainable and believed to be a suitable choice for the Sunday programme. Other titles were suggested and were listed for further research, with a final choice later in the year. For the Saturday evening, Members were keen to explore the availability of the Lewes; Glynde, & Beddingham Brass Band and others, with a view to staging an event along similar lines to WoW and perhaps inviting donations to benefit the project to create a Peace Garden adjacent the area popularly referred to as the "Magic Circle" (Castle Ditch Lane). Cllr O'Keeffe volunteered to write some appropriate music for LGB Brass, and was thanked for this offer.

2 *National project for local commemoration of recipients of the Victoria Cross:* A meeting had recently been held with District and County Council officers tasked with arranging the local elements of this programme, which provided stone tablets in memory of VC recipients. There were to be only two tablets in Lewes District, one in Seaford and one for Lewes; commemorating 2nd Lt. Sidney Clayton Woodroffe VC, which would be installed on 30th July 2015 as the anniversary of his brave but fatal action in battle at Hoge, Belgium. There had been some discussion on the most appropriate location for the stone tablet, which measured approximately 400mm x 400mm. It was agreed that the Town Council's Commemorations Working Party was the most appropriate group to make final recommendations in this regard, and members considered various locations. The most-favoured was the terrace at the entrance to the public library in Styles' Field, with the Grange Gardens a second-choice, and it was agreed that

these should be proposed. Members had regard to the general ambience of these areas; visibility to the public, and future availability of space should a similar project arise in any future commemoration, eg for WW2. A civic ceremony would be arranged for the unveiling.

3 *Commonwealth Day:* Council had previously agreed that a Commonwealth flag would be flown on Commonwealth Day each year – the second Monday in March – but it was noted that the Town hall flagpole would not be usable this year, pending repairs, following an engineer’s report which had identified weakness in some fixings. A promoter was suggesting a commemorative civic event for the day and Members considered details in the draft programme but did not wish to pursue the idea in 2015. This could be revisited in the future.

4 *VE Day:* It was understood that there was to be enhanced national recognition of VE day in 2015, although no details were known. It was agreed that the Council should take its lead from any plans being formulated by the Royal British Legion.

5 *Miscellaneous events:*

- a) It was understood that Helen Glavin would be amenable to re-presenting the Sword of Freedom at some point, related to national commemoration of Magna Carta.
- b) It was suggested that a version of “Winter of the World” might be staged in Blois, and it was agreed that the Twinning Association should be consulted on this idea.
- c) The Battlefields Trust (LTC is a corporate member) offered a speaker for an Autumn lecture as part of their recognition of Magna Carta. It was suggested that such a lecture might be held in the Corn Exchange, which was, appropriately, decorated with the interpretive panels from the British Library’s 2009 “Taking Liberties” exhibition on civil liberty.
- d) The group of embroiderers who had created the battle of Lewes Tapestry were understood to be contemplating a follow-on project, working with the Sussex Archaeological Society, to create several smaller panels in a similar style, and there was the prospect of an exhibition; possibly a need for a permanent home” for these. Members agreed that, should this proceed, the Council ought to support the project.
- e) It was reported that the Royal British Legion were considering alternative arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Suggestions known to be under consideration included a change of time to 11:00am (known to be problematic); a change of venue to St Michael’s church, and a change to place the civic party on the steps of the Crown Court for the parade march-past. Further information would be reported when known.

CmemsWP2014/21

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

Council is to be asked to agree the following recommendations:

(ref 1 above) To agree support for events to be held at the All Saints Centre on 26th and 27th September 2015.

(ref 2 above) To agree the proposed sites, and suggested priorities, for the tablet commemorating 2nd Lt. Sidney Clayton Woodroffe VC.

(ref 5 above) To agree in-principle support for the prospective events and ideas described (subject to further detail and cost implications).

CmemsWP2014/22

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 12:00pm

Signed.....

Date