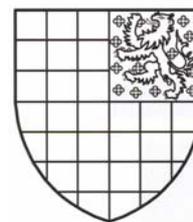


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events in 2012 held on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **2:30pm**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs Chartier; Catlin (Wischhusen); O'Keeffe; Turner

*In attendance:* S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Mrs F Garth (*Civic Officer/Asst TC*); G Macdonald (*Lewes District Economic Regeneration Project Officer*); Rhys Pask (*Lewes District Council Graduate Intern*).

**CmemsWP2011/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Chartier was elected Chairman

**CmemsWP2011/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Murray (R) who had a teaching commitment.

**CmemsWP2011/03 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** There were none. (No members of the public present.)

**CmemsWP2011/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**CmemsWP2011/05 REMIT of the WORKING PARTY:**

Members noted the remit of the Working party, as set by Council on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011:

*(Council resolution Minute FC/2011/94.5 of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 refers)* A Commemorations Working Party be set up to look, in the first instance, at ways of celebrating significant events in 2012, with the possibility of continuing the remit through 2013 and 2014; to be reviewed annually.

**CmemsWP2011/06 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

Members proceeded to discuss various ideas that had been promoted for 2012: Specifically related to the Diamond Jubilee celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup>, Council had already agreed to the joint project, with Lewes District Council (LDC) hosting a strawberry cream tea in the Town Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Alongside this was a competition for schools to produce portraits and an exhibition of the expected 2,000 entries would be displayed in the Corn Exchange over that weekend. Members suggested that souvenirs might be provided for guests at the tea, and it was agreed to ask Council for a budget once costs could be established.

Council had also agreed to enter the national scheme for beacon fires, and it was agreed that a suitable partner should be approached regarding a fire on Landport Bottom

There was some crossover between jubilee events and the later Olympic Torch Relay, as the Olympic organizers allowed either Olympic "branding" or Union Red/White/Blue (RWB) to be used when dressing the route of the torch relay. It was agreed that RWB items were more practical as they had many potential uses and could be deployed for both these events in 2012. LDC had already committed to RWB municipal planting schemes across the District by ordering suitable varieties in the annual specification to growers.

It was suggested that a project to plant 60 native-species trees might be discussed with LDC, as the Town Council had no readily-identifiable land where this might be sited. This would be researched.

Other ideas for 2012 that were considered worthy of further development were:

- Creation of a book of photographs, with one from each of the 60 years of the Queen's reign.
- Celebratory ringing of "Gabriel", the historic bell in the Market Tower.
- Request to the local church authorities for a co-ordinated peal of bells across the town
- A photographic exhibition in the Town Hall foyer, contrasting the Diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 with the present celebration.
- An exhibition of a local royal memorabilia collection on Heritage Open Day in September.
- A traditional "Loyal Address" (speech; message to the monarch; and displayed manuscript.
- Town Council to provide RWB "dressing" materials for businesses along the route of the torch relay – in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

Potential future projects, after 2012, were identified as the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lewes (BoL) in May 2014, for which some preparations were underway, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War (WW1). It was recognized that the Council should be prepared for approaches from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

Cllr Chartier had offered to produce a dedicated BoL leaflet or factsheet, which could be simply produced in-house or published at a better quality.

An earlier idea to commission a piece of music for the BoL celebration had been discussed informally with potential partners, and was estimated to cost between £3,000 and £5,000. A draft proposal was to be distributed for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Turner had partly-written a play related to the battle, designed for itinerant performance or a fixed site, and suggested a possible joint venture between LTC and the Lewes Theatre. An estimate of likely costs suggested production costs might be less than £1,500 in total.

It was noted that there was likely to be an event in 2013 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the tri-partite Town Twinning Charter, which would probably be held in Blois for practical reasons, as in 2003. On that occasion, several LTC Members and staff had travelled to Blois in a minibus driven by TC, and a car driven by Cllr Daly. Enquiries would be pursued with the Twinning Association.

**CmemsWP2011/07**

#### **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It was decided that another meeting would be needed in the near future, to allow time for collection of information regarding the ideas proposed. When a clearer idea of cost implications could be established, Council could be asked to agree a sum to be drawn-down from the existing finance reserve earmarked for Commemorations (shown in the accounts as R7). Meanwhile, Council would be asked to endorse the projects suggested above as suitable for further research.

**CmemsWP2011/08**

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

*The meeting closed at 3:55pm*

Signed.....

Date .....