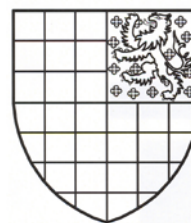


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## *MINUTES*

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events, held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **11:00am**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); Dr G Mayhew; R Murray, and R O’Keeffe

*In attendance:* S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*)

**CmemsWP2016/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Chartier was elected Chairman of the Working party for the 2016/17municipal year

**CmemsWP2016/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Makepeace, who had a family commitment. **It was resolved that:**  
**CmemsWP2016/02.1** Reasons submitted for absence are accepted.

**CmemsWP2016/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**CmemsWP2016/04 QUESTIONS:** There were none

**CmemsWP2016/05 MINUTES:** Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were received and signed as an accurate record.

**CmemsWP2016/06 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

It was noted that Council had extended the Working Party’s mandate to 2019 and supported, in-principle, prospective events that had been recommended.

*Lewes Light Festival:* The Chairman welcomed Graham Festenstein and Phil Rose – organizers of the Lewes Light Festival (LLF), who gave an illustrated presentation outlining the inspiration for the Festival, analysis of the 2015 event, and plans for an extended festival for this year. The original inspiration had come from the UNESCO International Year of Light 2015, including initiatives at Chartres and Lyon in France; a world-renowned annual event at Alingsas in Sweden, and projects in Durham and London. The 2015 Lewes festival had been shortlisted for a prestigious international award.

There was an in-depth discussion and Messrs Festenstein and Rose elaborated upon some of the financial options for the project. Enormous support was already secured from within the lighting industry, such as donation/loan of equipment worth over £250,000, and expertise. Funding for some artistic elements was in place, and more was anticipated, but it was difficult to attract grants *etc* for fundamental but mundane elements such as insurance.

The Festival had a number of ancillary benefits as a practical education tool, as it addressed curricular elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) and offered opportunities in the teaching of dramatic arts, theatre and event management *etc*. Mr Festenstein, a professional engineer, was a ‘STEM Ambassador’ and Mr Rose was Head of the Production Arts faculty at Sussex Downs College (SDC), a lecturer, and founder of Lewes Youth Theatre. SDC students had produced elements of the 2015 festival and acted as guides through the town. It was proposed that this guide element of the festival would be expanded and would result in a number of trained young people who would be knowledgeable about the history of their own town and who could pass-on such knowledge and enthusiasm. Part of a bid for Heritage Lottery Fund grant was to link to a Lewes local history project with local schools and SDC. There were

also plans for a discrete wildlife-themed installation on Landport Bottom.

As an aside; it was noted that energy consumed to present the 2015 Festival had amounted to less than that required for a single floodlit football match.

The working party agreed that it would be a very worthwhile event; helping tourism and including a training aspect helping young people. The LLF was also hoping to present a photographic exhibition in the foyer of the Town Hall. They were seeking funding from several other sources. It was agreed that Council should be asked to agree a budget of up to £5,000 from the existing earmarked Reserve fund (*balance b/fwd at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 £14,005*), to be spent on the 2016 LLF at the discretion of the Working Party.

*100yrs since commencement of 1<sup>st</sup> World War:* There was general discussion on:

- A proposed extension of the popular “lightbox” project featuring photographs from the Edward Reeves Archive in illuminated boxes. The organizer was designing a programme of photographs of local people who served in WW1, to be mounted in the windows of their original homes. A parallel academic scheme to catalogue the Reeve archive of glass photographic plates had not attracted Heritage Lottery Fund funding and was deferred. There was a proposal to involve young people in a coordinated torchlight procession, to culminate in a ceremony at the War Memorial.
- The effect of the war on society at home and development of universal suffrage – working men, and women, being temporarily enfranchised in 1918 and the following Womens’ Suffrage movement. This was also a time of development in the Trades Union movement.
- Lewes Old Grammar School had mounted a production of “Oh! What a Lovely War!” in the Assembly Room, and it was proposed to discuss repeat performances in 2017, perhaps coordinated with an inter-school writing competition across the town.
- The Mayor was considering the organization of a Music-hall styled event in February 2017.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the research Dr Mayhew was conducting for the Council into names on the War Memorial. It had been previously acknowledged that the “missing names” provided by the Royal British Legion would almost certainly prove to have been omitted originally for a particular reason; and lack of space, plus the recent upgrade to the heritage listing status (to 2\*) may prove an obstacle to additional names.
- There was a general re-affirmation that marking the peace was the favoured theme.

*Other matters:* It was noted that the Chapel at Priory School was originally erected as a war memorial by the former County Grammar School. Council had recently confirmed its continued support for the partnership project with the Friends of Lewes to refurbish the ‘Magic Circle’ and investigate creation of a ‘peace garden’.

**CmemsWP2016/08**

## **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:**

Council would be asked to agree the following recommendations:

That a budget of up to £5,000 is agreed, for disbursement at the discretion of the Commemorations Working Party in connection with the Lewes Light Festival 2016. This sum to be drawn from the earmarked fund identified in the council’s accounts as R7 ‘Commemorations fund’..

**CmemsWP2016/08**

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

*The meeting closed at 12:30pm*

Signed.....

Date .....