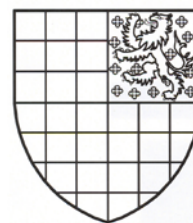


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events, held on **Tuesday 3rd December 2013**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall**, Lewes at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); R Murray; Dr M Turner, and (*not appointed to the Working Party*) L Allsobrook.

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

CmemsWP2013/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr R O'Keefe, who had a County Council duty.

CmemsWP2013/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

CmemsWP2013/13 QUESTIONS: There were none. (No members of the public present.)

CmemsWP2013/14 MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2013 were received and signed as an accurate record.

CmemsWP2013/15 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

1 *Battle of Lewes 750th anniversary:* Cllr Chartier reminded colleagues of his role with the town's Battle of Lewes Action Group (BLAG) and the work of the group in preparing for the celebrations. Work was progressing more slowly than anticipated on the commemorative tapestry, due to the serious illness of one of the volunteers, and completion was now expected by Christmas or shortly thereafter. The commissioned choral music was progressing well, and the composer, Helen Glavin, had reported that she had written most of the text and was currently busy setting the words to music. It was planned that the Everyman Ensemble would begin learning/rehearsing the work from January 2014, with an introductory session to some of the music before Christmas.

The play being written by Cllr Dr Turner would be performed on 17th May 2014 at three sites in the town: the Gun Garden at Lewes castle; Harvey's Brewery yard, and Lewes Priory. There was to be no charge to the audience.

There was to be a national focus upon democracy in 2015, in commemoration of Magna Carta, and encouragement from the government to seek opportunities for the involvement of young people. Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) was known to be planning events along these lines.

Other ideas were coming forward: Sussex Downs College was involved in the programme of events, and it was likely that Bonfire Societies would parade.

Cllr Chartier, in his capacity as BLAG chairman, was to liaise with Viva Lewes to suggest a programme similar to that produced for the *Gentlemen of the Road Stopover* event in July 2013.

2 *100yrs since commencement of 1st World War:* Cllr Dr Turner was producing the play "My Boy Jack" at Lewes Little Theatre, and it was suggested that this could be repeated at the All Saints Centre. Lewes Operatic Society was understood to be planning a performance of "Oh! What a Lovely War!", and Sussex Archaeological Society were to hold an academic conference in the Town Hall. Given the value of such an event to the town, and the nature of the Council's working relationship with the SAS, it was agreed that Council should be asked to agree a 50% discount on the cost of the hire of Town Hall facilities

for this event. An idea that was generally welcomed was for a festival at the All Saints Centre, showing appropriate films (eg “*All quiet on the Western Front*”) interspersed with poetry readings featuring WW1 poets (perhaps by local school students) and interludes of period music (eg “salon” music). Lewes District Council was coordinating locally for a national project to commemorate local recipients of the Victoria Cross in paving stones. The town band, LGB Brass, had offered to present an appropriately-themed concert for the Mayor, and this had been accepted with thanks. A member of the Royal Sussex Regimental Association had written offering a collection of WW2 vehicles and equipment for any displays that might be organized. It was generally agreed that, whilst a kind and genuine offer, items representing a different era would distort the commemoration. A representative of the local British Legion branch had proposed 21 names for addition to the town War Memorial: this was a sensitive matter and would require considerable research into the implications before a decision could be taken. To be considered, among other things, were the contexts of appropriateness (eg individual circumstances; family wishes; and whether or not those named were already commemorated elsewhere); and practicality.

3 *Celebration of town Twinning anniversary:* 2014 would be the 40th year since the official Twinning with Waldshut-Tiengen, and the German twinning association and local Council had already issued invitations to the Mayor of Lewes and others to attend various events planned during the year. The major annual *Schnyzertag* festival in Tiengen was to have England as its theme in 2014. It was considered appropriate to accept some of these invitations and engage with certain joint initiatives, eg the culmination of the *W-Tpur* project. Consequently, it was agreed that Council should be asked to approve the Working Party’s expenditure of up to £2,000 from the financial reserve earmarked for the purpose.

4 *150th anniversary of the Seaford – Lewes rail link:* The community rail partnership was organizing commemorative events in June 2014. There was to be a vintage transport display in Lewes station car park, including vehicles provided by Harveys Brewery. A steam locomotive would run from London to Lewes, and it was hoped that permission would be given for it to continue to Seaford, although the line was not currently technically-approved for the anticipated weight. Lewes’ Mayor had been invited to travel on this train and/or officiate at the welcome/departure. Southern Rail was working on an historic “timeline” display for the station and was seeking support from interested parties. These projects were all considered to be ideal for the purpose, and Members felt that the Council should engage with the commemoration. It was agreed that Council should be asked to authorize the Working party to decide appropriate involvement, and to expend a maximum of £1,500 to that end, drawn from the financial reserve earmarked for the purpose.

5 Cllr Allsobrook expressed her wish to join the Working Party; this was welcomed by Members and it was agreed that Council should be asked to formally appoint her.

CmemsWP2013/16

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

Council is to be asked to agree the following recommendations:

That a programme of events to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War be presented at the All Saints Centre in August 2014, as described above.

That the Sussex Archaeological Society booking of the Town Hall for an academic conference, as described above, be charged at 50% of the normal rate.

That the Working Party be authorized to expend up to £2,000, drawn from the financial reserve earmarked for the purpose, on the commemoration of 40 years

of Town Twinning with Waldshut-Tiengen, during 2014.

That the Working Party be authorized to expend up to £1,500, drawn from the financial reserve earmarked for the purpose, on the commemoration of 150 years of the Lewes – Seaford railway link, in June 2014.

That Cllr Allsobrook's request to be appointed to the Working Party be agreed.

CmemsWP2013/17

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