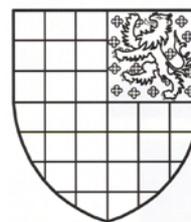


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events, held on **Tuesday 5th August 2014**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall**, Lewes at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs E Allsobrook; S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); R Murray; Cllr Dr M Turner

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

CmemsWP2014/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr O’Keeffe, who was attending to a domestic plumbing problem.

CmemsWP2014/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

CmemsWP2014/11 QUESTIONS: There were none. (No members of the public present.)

CmemsWP2014/12 MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2014 were received and signed as an accurate record, following a debate as to the importance of a discussion on a proposed screening of WW1 films at All Saints, which was not recorded in the minutes.

CmemsWP2014/13 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

1 *100yrs since commencement of 1st World War:*

a) Ms Helen Glavin, and John Hancorn were coordinating an event on behalf of the Council, to commemorate the centenary of WW1 to be held at the All Saints Centre on 26th October. Mr Hancorn had reported good progress in obtaining agreement from various musicians; singers; and other performers.

b) There was some discussion as to the screening of themed films at All Saints and it was agreed that this would be pursued at various appropriate points during the four-year commemorative span. Cllr Catlin undertook to liaise with Lewes Film Club to coordinate available dates and suitable titles in 2015. Cllr Turner suggested that he may be able to put on a reading of David Haig’s *My Boy Jack* and this was welcomed.

c) A recently-received programme of intended actions across 2014-18 by East Sussex County Council was distributed, along with a national guidance booklet for commemorations during the period; published by the government.

d) The proposed Peace Garden project would be discussed in detail at the next liaison meeting with Friends of Lewes – scheduled for 26th September.

e) Further to informal discussions in 2013 with the Chairman of Lewes Brach, Royal British Legion, regarding omissions from the town’s War Memorial, a project was proposed. It was known that in 1920-21, when the community was asked to provide names to be commemorated on the memorial; more than 20 families’ requests were not included. Further; it had been noted that three brothers from one family, who had all been killed in action, were commemorated elsewhere. As part of the current national programme to install engraved paving stones to the memory of recipients of the Victoria Cross, one of these brothers was to have a stone placed in Lewes in 2015 – being coordinated by Lewes District Council with assistance from Mrs Garth. It was generally accepted that any additions to a memorial should be properly researched, and reasonable attempts made to contact surviving family to ascertain their wishes. Cllr Dr

Mayhew, an academic historian by profession, had conducted such research over forty years ago which resulted in the addition of the names of those fallen in the Second World War, and he had offered to extend that work to establish the position regarding the WW1 omissions. This, it was suggested, would be appropriately conducted at a measured pace with a view to any additions being made in 2018, to mark the end of WW1, on a suitably high-quality (*eg* stone or bronze) plaque. This was warmly welcomed, and it was agreed that the project should be recommended to Council, with an undertaking to support reasonable costs of research and attempts to contact families. The Chairman of the RBL had been advised of this proposal.

f) Cllr Allsobrook had obtained more detail from the Royal Sussex Regimental Association regarding their project to raise £50,000 to build and install a new memorial to the Regiment, which was to be unveiled on 10th September this year at Priez, France, 100 years to the day the Regiment took its first casualties. The memorial was being built by master stonemason Simon Buchanan in his workshop in South West London. Any funds received would go towards this and the installation and the ceremony of unveiling. Any surplus money would be ring-fenced by the association for upkeep and maintenance for the future, as being a private memorial the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was not responsible for that. The Association was not requesting any specific amounts from any persons or organisations - it was the fact those involved were recognising the Regiment and the legacy which was considered important. Contributions had been received from Burwash Parish Council; Eastbourne Borough Council; Lewes District Council; Sussex Masonic Charities and others. Members agreed to recommend that Council should make contribution of £500. The Mayor had already been invited to attend the unveiling in September. The Regiment had also been trying to locate relatives of the 22 men killed in this first engagement – and had 3 families planning attendance in Priez .

2 *40th anniversary of Twinning with Waldshut-Tiengen (W-T):* The primary celebration between Twinning associations would be marked in August at the annual *Chilbi* festival in Waldshut-Tiengen. A civic party would attend and the Mayor would join the Mayors of Blois and W-T on stage at a feature. It was planned to mount an exhibition by well-known Lewes artist, Peter Messer, who had been invited to display his work in Tiengen. It was proposed that reasonable transport and accommodation costs for Mr Messer and his paintings be supported jointly by the Lewes and W-T administrations, and members agreed to recommend this to Council.

3 *Cycle Tour of Britain 2014:* As discussed at earlier meetings, Stage 7 of the Cycle Tour of Britain would pass through Lewes in the early afternoon of Saturday 13th September. Sussex would host the penultimate stage before the final in London the following day. Stage 7 would also be the longest stage, covering 226 km, and potentially offering the most interest for audiences. It had been suggested that Lewes bonfire societies might be interested to provide volunteer Marshals to augment the relatively few officials employed by the organizer although this had not, so far, been realized. *Cycle Lewes* were planning an event at the old Harvey's Depot, adjacent to the route, and several organizations had agreed to participate in this. Members agreed to recommend that council should offer a contribution to the costs of this event of up to £400, and if any volunteer Marshals came forward, to support costs of their lunch and other refreshments.

4 *National Heritage Open Day 14th September 2014:* Mrs Garth reported plans for the opening of the Town Hall and All Saints Centre for NHOD, and noted that Cllr Chartier would be hosting guided tours of the Town Hall. Any Members who could assist as general attendants would be welcomed, and should let Mrs Garth know of their availability.

5 *Membership of the Working Party:* Cllr Dr Mayhew had expressed a desire to join the Working Party, and Members welcomed this and agreed to recommend his appointment by Council.

6 *Commonwealth Day:* Mrs Garth advised of a national initiative to fly a commonwealth flag on Commonwealth Day each year – the second Monday in March – and details of a promotion by the Commonwealth Secretariat. In 2015, this will fall on 9th March, and an official flag was being offered for a special price of £58. This was to be flown between 10:00am and 10:00pm on Commonwealth Day. Members agreed to recommend participation by Council.

CmemsWP2014/14

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

Council is to be asked to agree the following recommendations:

(ref 1e above) To support the project to research names omitted from Lewes War Memorial, undertaking to support reasonable costs of research and attempts to contact families, with a view to producing a suitably high-quality additional plaque for the memorial in 2018.

(ref 1f above) To support the Royal Sussex Regimental Association project to install a memorial stone at Priez, France, with a contribution of £500.

(ref 2 above) To support reasonable transport and accommodation costs for an exhibition by Lewes artist Peter Messer in Tiengen, Germany, 15th–30th November 2014 (jointly with W-T administration)

(ref 3 above) To support the *Cycle Lewes* event at Harvey's Depot on 13th September 2014 with a contribution of up to £400

(ref 5 above) To appoint Cllr Dr G Mayhew to serve on the Commemorations Working Party.

(ref 6 above) To support Commonwealth Day by flying an official flag each year, and purchase of one flag at a cost of £58.

CmemsWP2014/15

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

The meeting closed at 12:15pm

Signed.....

Date