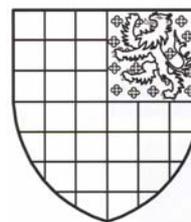


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemoration of significant events, held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **3:00pm**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); R O’Keeffe; Dr M Turner

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

*Also present:* Mrs Jackie Price (*Chairman, Lewes Twinning Association*)

**CmemsWP2012/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Cllr R Murray, who had a teaching commitment.

**CmemsWP2012/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**CmemsWP2012/19 QUESTIONS:** There were none. (No members of the public present.)

**CmemsWP2012/20 MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were received and signed as an accurate record.

**CmemsWP2012/21 REMIT of the WORKING PARTY:**

Members noted the remit of the Working party, as set by Council:

*(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.

EXTENSION TO REMIT:

*Minute extracts: Lewes Town Council meeting 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012:*

*(FC2012/56.3)* The Commemorations Working Party is mandated to continue its work in respect of 2013 and 2014, and;

*(FC2012/56.4)* An initial budget of £5,000 is agreed, (to be drawn from the financial Reserve approved for such purposes and shown in the Council’s accounts as R7) for the commissioning and overseeing by the Commemorations Working Party, of a suitable piece of music to mark the 2014 Battle of Lewes commemorations, and;

*(FC2012/56.5)* Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 is agreed as the date for the next Maymaking ceremony, in order to integrate with the 40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of tri-partite town twinning being held in Blois, France, and the principle of a party representing the Council at these events is agreed (subject to further details of the planned commemoration).

**CmemsWP2012/22 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 *Celebration of town Twinning anniversary:*

The proposed anniversary celebrations in Blois in May to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> years of tripartite twinning between Lewes; Blois and Waldshut-Tiengen (W-T) had changed since the last report. At the tripartite Twinning Association summit meeting in Blois in October it had been announced that the French administration could only accommodate a civic event between Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013, and they had prepared a schedule of events accordingly. Other events, such as school exchanges and sports fixtures, would take place

throughout the year but this weekend was to be the occasion of the symbolic re-signing of the Twinning charters. In answer to a question, it was noted that it was, regrettably, not possible to revert to the original date for Mayor-making, as the Assembly Room had since been let to Lewes Old Grammar School for examinations.

Mrs Price had attended a subsequent meeting of the Twinning Associations a few days earlier and reported that planning was going ahead on that basis, with both Lewes and W-T contingents rearranging their plans as best they could. The Lewes Twinning Association had provisionally booked two large coaches and would travel to France on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, returning on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. They anticipated some spare capacity, and offered places at £120 each if the dates suited the Council. As this involved more days than originally anticipated, when a return on the Sunday had been envisaged, estimates for hire of a seventeen-seat minibus had been obtained, and this would cost £705 (nett). Crossing the Channel via the Eurotunnel shuttle was £102 (nett) inclusive for the vehicle and passengers. Recent experience suggested that fuel should cost a maximum of £180 (nett). These values gave a cost per head for travel of around £60. Hotel accommodation in Blois was currently available, but booking early was advised. The Holiday Inn would cost £234 per double room for the three nights.

Members considered these costs and alternatives such as rail travel (£95pp if booked 13 weeks in advance) and agreed that the first choice, if supported by sufficient numbers in the party, would be to travel in a hired minibus (TC volunteered to drive) outbound on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, and returning on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. They would recommend that Council Members and staff should be funded for travel and accommodation, with a charge levied for partners based upon the travel cost and any additional room charges. Actual costs could be refined when numbers were known.

Members also agreed to recommend that costs of travel and accommodation be covered for the five members of the “Ouse Valley Three” – the talented young musicians who had been such a success in Waldshut-Tiengen in November 2012, when they represented Lewes alongside other local figures such as Miles Jenner, of Harvey’s as part of the “WT-Pur” audio visual festival. This was particularly relevant as the celebrations coincide with Blois’ annual music festival weekend, and their performance was greatly anticipated. Also; the W-T officers responsible for the WT-Pur project intended to bring a modified version to Lewes later in the year and to invite participation in a similar project by the Blois administration.

### *2 Battle of Lewes 750<sup>th</sup> 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. There was an extensive list of projects and work was progressing well on many of them, such as a commemorative tapestry. A bid to the Heritage Lottery fund was also being prepared. Council had agreed the earlier suggestion for the commissioning of a piece of music, as a focal-point for celebrations and as a lasting legacy for the town, and a meeting had been arranged with the composer to refine this idea. Members briefly discussed the application of this, such as a concert to introduce the piece followed by inclusion at other musical events. It was suggested that opportunities to link with Lewes, Delaware (USA), could be explored; one idea was for a “simultaneous” concert performance on both sides of the Atlantic.

### *3 Other matters:*

Members were most interested to learn of the great appreciation expressed by audiences inspired by the Lewes element of the “WT-Pur” audio visual festival in Waldshut-Tiengen last November. The producer had visited Lewes three times

during 2012, accompanying the civic visitors to Bonfire on one occasion, and had compiled an innovative and favourable presentation of the town as seen through the eyes of a local teenager and other local individuals, and with additional items by Miles Jenner and young musicians, the Ouse Valley Three. Mr Jenner, the musicians, and the young commentator had travelled to Germany and appeared on stage during the presentations and had been enthusiastically received. Mr Jenner had established friendly links between the breweries in the towns, and the musical performances by the Ouse Valley Three had been the highlight of the event for many people. Colleagues in the W-T administration had commissioned a modified version of the film, adjusted for language and context, and were keen to present it in Lewes later in 2013 (probably October) before extending the principle to Blois. This would involve some expense for travel, accommodation and presentation, and Members agreed to recommend that the Town Council agrees a contribution of up to £1,500 to assist in this most interesting project.

Cllr O’Keeffe reported that the project to create a book of photographs, with one from each of the 60 years of the Queen’s reign, which she had been coordinating for publication around the end of the Jubilee year, had been abandoned due to lack of suitable material.

**CmemsWP2012/23 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:**

It was agreed to recommend participation in the Twinning celebrations, and a contribution towards the “WT-Pur/Lewes” cultural project, in the manner described above.

**CmemsWP2012/24** There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

*The meeting closed at 4:25pm*

Signed.....

Date .....