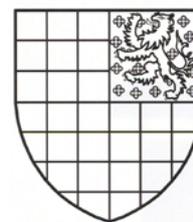


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemorations and significant events, held on **Wednesday 9th August 2017**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); I Makepeace; Dr G Mayhew; R Murray, and R O’Keeffe. Also (*not appointed to Working Party*) Cllr J Baah.

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

CmemsWP2017/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and noted from Cllr R O’Keeffe, who was attending a Citizens’ Advice Bureau meeting. *Cllr O’Keeffe joined the meeting later, as conclusions were being finalized*

CmemsWP2017/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

CmemsWP2017/11 QUESTIONS: There were none

CmemsWP2017/12 MINUTES: It was resolved that

CmemsWP2017/12.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June were received and signed as an accurate record.

CmemsWP2017/13 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

The meeting welcomed Mr Tony Oliver of the Royal Sussex Regimental Association (RSRA), attending to update members on a proposed commemorative plaque, and Mr Phil Rose, who wished to discuss the 2017 Lewes Light Festival (LLF)

1 *Commemorative plaque for RSRA Lewes Branch* – Mr Oliver expanded upon the points made when he had first approached the Working Party on behalf of the RSRA in October 2016. Especially poignant was the reminder that the local men of the regiment who had lost their lives in service had all been young conscripts. Subsequently, Council had agreed in principle (*minute FC2016/69.3.2 refers*) to some form of permanent memorial plaque for the Royal Sussex Regimental Association, subject to firm proposals for consideration. Estimates had been obtained from suitably-qualified memorial masons, who had proposed either marble; sandstone, or granite with painted and gilded engraved detailing. Members considered aspects of these suggestions including the size of the tablet, requirements for fixing within the heritage-listed Town Hall, and appropriateness of the proposed material and design. Costs ranged from £2,200 to £4,300 including a reasonable allowance for installation, taking account of the wall construction likely to be encountered. After some discussion, there was majority agreement to recommend a tablet of polished/honed ‘Abbey’ light grey granite measuring 30”wide x 24”deep x 2” thick, with gilded/painted detail at a total cost of approximately £2,200. The RSRA were able to contribute around £300 towards this cost, and Members were reminded that the Council’s earmarked financial reserve for such matters (R7) had an available balance of £13,005. This would be subject to grant of consent for the works to the listed building.

Councillors thanked Mr Oliver for his attendance and presentation.

2 *Lewes Light Festival 2017* – Mr Rose explained the development of the Lewes Light Festival in the previous two years, and described enhancements and extensions of the project for 2017. Organizers were slowly moving towards more sustainable funding, and were again anticipating significant support in-kind

from within the lighting industry: loan or donation of equipment, and technical assistance. As previously, the 2017 programme would begin at the Town Hall; this year with a theme of trade; industry, and commerce as the installations followed a 'trail' through town accompanied by a coordinating historical storyline. Brighton University and Northbrook College undergraduates were engaged with the project, which extended the educational range even further than 2016. The event would cover the 13th, 14th and 15th of October 2017. Following the principle established in 2016, the Council was asked to consider funding for the costs of items which were essential but mundane, and unlikely to attract sponsorship, eg insurance premium. A sum of £6,292 was requested.

Members asked a number of questions related to the organization of the festival, and Mr Rose explained background details in-depth. He confirmed that, due to the use of modern LED technology, the entire three-day festival consumed little power; comparing it with a single floodlit football game. LLF organizers were also working closely with the officers at the South Downs National Park Authority who were responsible for the 'Dark Skies' initiative, and the light overspill from installations would be negligible beyond a few metres distance.

Members wished to record their gratitude to Mr Rose; Graham Festenstein, and others responsible for the production of such a high-quality, popular, event for Lewes. They unanimously agreed to recommend that Council provide financial support of £5,500, and underwrite the cost of necessary project elements up to a maximum of a further £800; the final amount to be decided following consideration of post-event accounts.

3 *International Day of Peace* – Council had recently agreed to support an event commemorating this day on 21st September 2017 and asked the Working Party to look at details. The theme of the 2017 IDP was to be *"Together for Peace – Respect; Safety and Dignity for all"*. The Council Chamber had been reserved in anticipation of an event, but no other facilities were available. A number of suggestions had been received and details of these were considered in the context of appropriateness and practicality. Of the suggestions put forward, members were interested to find out if some form of collaboration between the Pestalozzi Village children's charity and a local school might be developed. The charity had expressed a desire to extend its events and it was thought that there may be potential to 'pair' with students from a local school for the day. This would be investigated although it was acknowledged that lack of access to school staff during holidays would make a project difficult to initiate for September 2017. From a range of ideas suggested by the public, it was decided to recommend that Council support a proposed evening festival of poetry – *'Poems for Peace'* – offering the Council Chamber as a venue and some support for publicity *etc* and reasonable costs of the event. It was suggested that the event would feature local actors and poets, and follow similar initiatives recorded by the United Nations in past years. The proposer would be asked to provide more detail for Council to consider before deciding.

Cllr O'Keefe joined the meeting at this point.

6 *Other matters* - Members noted that requests had been made by third-parties regarding the naming of a bus for Dr Colin Tingle, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. It was understood that The Big Lemon company advised they did not offer the facility, and Brighton & Hove Bus Company would consider requests only after one year had elapsed since Dr Tingle's death.

Members were interested to discuss aspects of the Parliamentary project *'Vote 100'* which had commenced in 2015 and would conclude in 2018 with a major public exhibition in Westminster Hall. The project commemorates a series of anniversaries related to development of democracy, and in 2018 would mark:

- February 2018 - 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which enabled all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time;
- April 2018 - 60th anniversary of the Life Peerages Act 1958, which allowed women to sit in the House of Lords;
- July 2018 - 90th anniversary of the Equal Franchise Act 1928, which gave women the right to vote at age 21 on the same terms as men;
- October 2018 - 60th anniversary of women sitting in the House of Lords for the first time;
- November 2018 - 100th anniversary of the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918, allowing women to stand for election to the House of Commons;
- December 2018 - 100th anniversary of all men and some women voting for the first time, in the general election of December 1918.

It was agreed that there would be opportunities in 2018 programme to explore some form of local project, and this would be discussed at a future meeting.

CmemsWP2017/14

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

It was agreed to recommend that:

1 Council should work with Royal Sussex Regimental Association (Lewes Branch) to commission a tablet of polished/honed ‘Abbey’ light grey granite measuring 30”wide x 24”deep x 2” thick, with gilded/painted detail, for installation in the foyer of the Town Hall at a total cost of approximately £2,200. This estimated cost, offset by contribution from RSRA, to be funded from the earmarked financial reserve R7 “Commemorations” (*available balance £13,005*)

2 Council should agree financial support of £5,500 for the 2017 Lewes Light Festival, and underwrite the cost of necessary project elements up to a maximum of a further £800; the final amount to be decided following consideration of post-event accounts. This to be funded from the earmarked financial reserve R7 “Commemorations” (*available balance £13,005*)

3 Council should support a proposed evening festival of poetry on 21st September 2017 – UN International Day of Peace – offering the Council Chamber as a venue and some support for publicity *etc* and reasonable costs of the event. This subject to more details from the proposer.

CmemsWP2017/15

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

The meeting closed at 12:25pm

Signed.....

Date