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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **All Saints Centre (ASC) Steering Group** held on **Wednesday 9th August 2017**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **2:30pm**.

PRESENT Cllrs Catlin (Wischhusen); Chartier; Milner; Murray (S); R O'Keeffe. Also (*not appointed to Steering Group*) Cllrs Baah and Murray (R).

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

ASCSG2017/01 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Catlin was elected Chairman of the Steering Group for the 2017/18 year.

ASCSG2017/02 **QUESTIONS:** There were none.

ASCSG2017/03 **APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Burrows, who was on holiday. No message had been received from Cllr Dr Bolt.

ASCSG2017/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

ASCSG2017/05 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2016 were received and signed as a correct record.

ASCSG2017/06 **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 *Film@AllSaints (F@AS):* Performance statistics were presented for the full season, September 2016 to July 2017. Seventy-four films had been shown over 121 screenings. This was the fifth full season and analysis of the 'performance' of each film title was also provided. The season had yielded an operating loss of £1,777; although over the five years the operation had achieved an overall surplus of £5,717. There followed some discussion as to the effects of the Depot Cinema, which had opened in May. Film@AllSaints had been operating at a modest surplus up until that point in the season, and it was acknowledged that the new facility offered a completely different experience for film-goers; many of whom had, understandably, immediately begun to patronize the new venue.

It was understood that Lewes Film Club, who screened on alternate weekends to F@AS, were planning to reduce their screenings and had booked only for an event in October and some provisional dates in January 2018. There followed a lengthy discussion on the future Council provision of cinema at ASC, and a number of scenarios and alternatives were considered. There had been some discussion with the club as to the possibility of taking ownership of the disc projector and ceasing to call upon their services for projection and assistance with programming, which agreement had cost around £4,000 each season. It was recognized that there was unsatisfied demand for weekend availability of the Centre for music; theatre, and other uses which had been effectively 'blocked' due to cinema screening through the year, and that the Council had occasionally arranged successful drama events prior to the cinema operation. This meant that whatever was decided regarding cinema, the Centre would be unlikely to see reduced demand for its facilities, especially given the imminent modernization of stage lighting and sound systems. It was agreed that the film operation at All Saints was not necessarily in competition with the Depot, and catered for a different market, with some members feeling that it could arguably be seen as complementary in providing film choices to the town. The new cinema offered an interesting and valued new dimension to the entertainment on-offer in Lewes and everyone wished it to have a clear field in which to become established,

continues...

whilst ensuring that the community's choices were as wide as possible. A number of views were expressed and it was ultimately agreed to recommend that Council should continue with film screenings at ASC on only one 'short' weekend (Friday and Saturday) each month, ending the season earlier, in June 2018, and with a mid-season review in the New Year. Alongside this, it was also agreed to approach the Depot to explore potential collaborative working or programming, and to investigate the cost of a disc projector.

2 *General matters:* Members were pleased to learn that the Toy Library, which the Council had taken-over in late 2016 when volunteer operators could no longer continue, was thriving and regularly attracted new users. Despite modest membership charges, the amount held on account for replacement toys had grown significantly since the transfer of the operation and purchases were planned in the near future.

New lighting and sound systems were due to be installed during the traditional summer 'maintenance recess' starting the following week, when works were effected that were best undertaken in the absence of users, such as floor stripping/re-finishing and outstanding minor building repairs. There was some rehearsal of the discussion during the previous meeting, on the charge for hire of the new sound system as an "extra" to room-hire fees; in the way that bar equipment and facilities were currently charged. This was considered appropriate, and a figure of £40 per hire was confirmed as reasonable, aligned as it was to existing charges. It was clarified that this would not be applied to 'basic' facilities, but only when hirers wished to take advantage of enhanced or extended system capabilities.

ASCSG2017/07

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

It was agreed to recommend to Council that it should note these minutes and approve the approach taken by the Steering Group as described above.

ASCSG2017/08

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

The meeting closed at 3:50pm