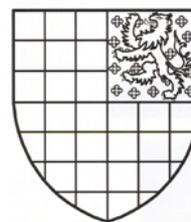


Town Hall
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2QS

☎ 01273 471469 Fax: 01273 480919

✉ info@lewes-tc.gov.uk

🌐 www.lewes-tc.gov.uk



**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemorations and significant events, held on **Tuesday 12th June 2018** in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall**, Lewes at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); I Makepeace; Dr G Mayhew
In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*).

CmemsWP2018/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Members noted that Cllr R O’Keeffe had resigned from the Working Party. Apologies had been received from Cllr Murray, who had a teaching commitment.

CmemsWP2018/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

CmemsWP2018/03 QUESTIONS: There were none

CmemsWP2018/04 MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2018 were received and agreed as an accurate record.

CmemsWP2018/05 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

1 The meeting welcomed Professor Michael Bull, of Sussex University, and Ms Lisa Guile, an arts professional, who were attending to present a request for support for a proposed project to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. Also welcomed was Mr Phil Rose, an organizer of the Lewes Light Festival.

2 Professor Bull described a multi-disciplinary art and adult education event to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One, to be held at the Lewes Depot, scheduled for 10th November 2018 (*to be confirmed*). “Exploring the Human Experience of WW1 through Film, Words, Music and Sound”, the event would run from the afternoon into the evening and would provide a preface to the more traditional commemorations in Lewes on the 11th.

There would be three interconnected aspects to the event:

- A multimedia lecture by Professor Bull that explores the sounds of WW1 where he discusses how these sounds have been represented and understood in literature, poetry, letters, music and film.
- A showing of *Wooden Crosses* (1932) directed by Raymond Bernard, based on the 1919 novel by Roland Dorgeles. Introduced by Prof. The film is considered perhaps the most ‘realistic’ of all WW1 films. It was shot in the trenches of Northern France with all the cast and crew having fought in the trenches during WW1.
- A live performance of a new ‘gig theatre’ piece: “The Human Sound of War”, setting WW1 poetry to music/sound installation. Performed by a double bass player and vocalist (Rebecca Askew), a saxophonist (Lisa Guile), and a trumpet player and live sound installation performer (Al Strachan).

The aim of this event was to leave the audience with greater knowledge about and deeper insight into the human experience of WW1. This would be achieved via exploration of WW1 from several angles using different media: *eg.* people would watch servicemen in the trenches, learn about the literature written at the time, and experience their own responses to settings of wartime poetry. A

secondary aim was to gather information regarding people's views of this type of arts education event, which would be used by the Lewes Depot/The University of Sussex/local arts practitioners to inform future events.

Members considered a project budget outline prepared by Ms Guile, and asked what plans existed to allow for a shortfall in predicted ticket sales. It was noted that ticket costs were set extremely low, and this was applauded. It was acknowledged that the date planned was subject to the availability of key performers, one of whom was currently awaiting confirmation of a role with the Royal Shakespeare Company which would necessitate a change of schedule.

Councillors were impressed with the proposed project, and unanimous in agreement that Council should be asked to contribute up to £500 once details were confirmed.

3 Mr Rose was pleased to announce that Lewes Light Festival had been shortlisted for a Lewes Business Award, as Tourist Destination of the Year. He went on to update Members on plans for the 2018 event. There continued to be significant support from within the lighting industry and arts and educational institutions. In addition, more than £4,500 had been secured from the Lewes area. A Heritage Lottery Fund application was in process, and another strand was likely to be attractive to the Arts Council. Also planned were applications to the Lewes Community Fund and the Chalk Cliff Trust. Local notable author Mrs Alice Dudeney (*aka Mrs Henry Dudeney. 1866 – 1945*) was the subject of one strand of research, and her resonance with the 2018 theme of “[*things*] Missing”. It was anticipated that the 2018 festival will require road closure Orders for three nights between 7:00 and 10:30pm. Greater numbers were expected than in previous years, and measures were in place for additional adult and youth guides for ‘tour groups’ during the Festival. Lewes Youth Theatre Group; Northbrook College, a youth folk group, and local traditional folk singers the Copper Family had all given commitment to various strands of the festival.

The Festival organizers were hopeful that the Town Council could grant up to £8,000 to cover, as in previous years, expenses that would not attract specific grant funding (insurance; technical operators, general running costs *etc*)

Councillors noted that in 2017 the Council had agreed up to £6,300, and £5,500 had been called-upon. They acknowledged the growth in profile of the event, and recognized its high value to the town, but wished to avoid establishing a pattern of regular and significant increases in Council support. There were suggestions that a donation-on-booking/collection bucket scheme for tours might help defray costs, as had been used in an earlier Festival, and Mr Rose agreed that this should be incorporated.

Members were happy to agree to recommend that Council should grant up to £8,000 for 2018, on the understanding that Lewes Light Festival would operate a donation/collection scheme as discussed.

4 Approaches had been made to several Members by a group proposing a commemoration to note the 250th anniversary of Tom Paine's residence in Lewes. It appeared that Lewes District Council (LDC) had already acknowledged it for inclusion in the 2018 *Artwave* programme and were likely to offer premises and other support. Members considered that this was appropriate recognition and would let LDC know that they were generally supportive of the project. Similarly, they would indicate their welcome of the planned LDC event on 9th July to mark the vote for women. It was commented that the first indoor meeting supporting suffrage was held in Lewes Town Hall.

5 Members noted that since their last meeting Ms Julie Van Ackeren, LRA Supervisor at Sussex Downs College, had visited with colleagues who led arts and design and media courses. The tutors had been interested to learn of the work of the Council and partners, and may find links to several ongoing projects

such as 'Our Pictures' and the proposed 'Suffrage to Citizenship' initiative.

6 Also since the last meeting, the plaque to commemorate the fallen of the Royal Sussex Regiment had been agreed with the RSR Association and ordered. Installation was expected in August.

Attempts had been made to engage with the Pestalozzi charity with regard to International Day of Peace 2018, as suggested, but had so far not borne fruit.

The efforts of Ms Brigitte Lardinois and Dr Diana Wilkins, in the "Suffrage to Citizenship" initiative affiliated to the ongoing Reeves Photography Archive project, had resulted in the inclusion of Lewes's Kate Fowler-Tutt in the Women's Local Government Society project "to identify and celebrate the lives of 100 women and men who were active in the campaign for extending the vote to all women and who went on to use their extended rights of citizenship in a positive way in their local areas".

The performance at the All Saints Centre in April by *The Bard's Buskers* had been well-received by those attending, albeit there had been regrettably few and poor support by Councillors.

7 With regard to suggestions to mark the renewals of the ceasefire agreement following 11th November 1918 (renewed on 13th December 1918; 16th January 1919, and 16th February 1919 before the eventual signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28th 1919 and its effective date of 10th January 1920.) Cllr Catlin undertook to approach LDC to ask if Gabriel, the Market Tower bell, might be rung to accompany a short simple event he hoped to arrange at the War Memorial on those anniversaries. LGB Brass would be approached to establish whether they might provide a bugler to play the *Last Post*.

8 Cllr Dr Mayhew remarked that, in the course of his research into local people who fell in WW1, he had acquired photographs of many individuals and asked if these could be displayed in November in the Town Hall foyer. He hoped that this might prompt families to come forward with other photographs they may hold and thereby contribute to the historical records of that time. This could be easily done using Town Hall equipment. Members agreed to recommend this.

9 There followed a brief discussion on the staining of the limestone components of the War Memorial, and TC described the project to clean it that was conducted in 2010/11. Works had been carried out by Chichester Cathedral Works Organization experts, and utilized superheated steam cleaning and chemical poultice treatments, which had been repeatedly applied for several weeks. Their expert opinion, offered at the conclusion, was that the staining was too deeply ingrained into the stone to be removable, and although the actual depth could be ascertained by cutting a sample this was not advisable. The memorial had, in 2014 been re-designated as 2* (Two/Star) by English Heritage on the national List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, which may make such intrusive investigation difficult. It was agreed that the matter could researched at a later date.

CmemsWP2018/06

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Council would be asked to support the decisions of the Working Party, as described.

CmemsWP2018/07

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

The meeting closed at 12:05pm

Signed.....

Date