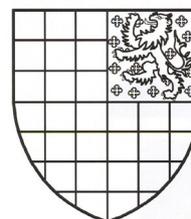


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemorations and significant events, held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT** Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); Dr G Mayhew; Murray (R) and Murray (S)

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

**CmemsWP2018/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Makepeace, who had a work commitment. It was noted that Cllr Susan Murray had been appointed to the Working Party, but had been omitted in error, from the Summons to this meeting

**CmemsWP2018/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**CmemsWP2018/10 QUESTIONS:** There were none

**CmemsWP2018/11 MINUTES: It was resolved that:**

**CmemsWP2018/11.1** Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 are received and agreed as an accurate record.

**CmemsWP2018/12 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 The meeting welcomed Mr David Scott Cowan and his wife Carol. March 2019 would mark the centenary of the death of the Sussex architect Rowland Hawke Halls, Mr Scott Cowan's grandfather, and he presented an illustrated proposal that this might be an appropriate time to remember an architect who contributed much both to the built environment and to the life of the town. Partly, it was suggested, because he was a fine architect working in the Arts and Crafts tradition, but also to remember him for his love of Sussex: its landscape, its nature, and its people. His houses were built by local builders, and fitted out by local craftsmen. He fostered and valued his relationships with them, and they had responded in kind.

Halls lived all of his life in Sussex, most of it in Lewes and Seaford, and he designed many houses and public buildings, and restored several others. He saw active service in the First World War – he was called up in 1917 and joined the Army Service Corps, serving mainly in and around the Somme. He survived the war, only to be killed in an accident just a few days after he was demobilised. He was only 39, when he was at the height of his powers, and it was thought that he would have gone on to do much more had he lived.

Many of his houses are on The Avenue – *Rowland's* being a notable example, and several others on the same side of the road. What was considered perhaps his finest building in Lewes is the former Municipal Offices in Fisher Street (No4).

Resources were available within the family and elsewhere, that might make an interesting exhibition, including a large collection of his drawings in the East Sussex Record Office and a family collection of watercolours of Rowland Halls's houses by George Montague Ellwood. These included the house on The Avenue that is now called *Bindons* and *Rowlands*, the "House with the Lych Gate". The family also hold many letters written by Halls from the Western Front, many of them remembering the Sussex Downs in the midst of war, and also a long and moving account titled "A Day's Routine in Wartime" which was

thought both moving and historically interesting.

Councillors thanked Mr Scott Cowan for his most interesting presentation, and were happy to support the idea of an exhibition at the Town Hall during 2019; there were also suggestions that the family might engage with Sussex History Society, and perhaps investigate with the Friends of Lewes the possibility of a commemorative plaque for an appropriate building. It was also possible that the Mayor might consider hosting a civic reception to celebrate architecture.

2 *Lewes Light 2018*: Members considered a report from the organizers which described the festival as a “resounding success”. Visitor numbers were estimated at about 12,000 over the three evenings, and there had been extensive media and social media coverage. The number of designers and artists contributing had been extended, and the team had included contributors not only from Lewes, Seaford, Brighton and London but also Scotland, France, Poland, Ireland, Thailand and Japan. The organizers had worked with young people from Lewes Youth Theatre and Brighton Met College, providing work experience and mentoring.

Councillors were pleased to learn of the success of the Council-supported Festival, and congratulated the organizers. It was noted that they would be interested to see some financial background information in due course and there were comments regarding the duration of road-closures on the three evenings and observations of sparse audiences at times.

3 *International Day of Peace 2019*: It was agreed that the Council Chamber should be provisionally booked for an event on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019, as it was understood that local groups who had marked the day in 2017 would be happy to do so again.

4 *Miscellaneous matters*:

- > The recent event at the Depot, commemorating 250 years since Tom Paine arrived in Lewes, had been hailed as a success.
- > Council had received, the previous week, profuse thanks from the Royal Sussex Regimental Association for the commemorative stone tablet mounted in the Town Hall foyer.
- > The *Suffrage to Citizenship* project recognizing 100 years of votes for women would include four light-boxes at Town Hall windows, and there were ancillary projects planned with support from Sussex Community Rail Partnership. TC had agreed with the organizers that two banners, depicting photographs of the twelve female Mayors to date, would be displayed in the foyer to enhance the entrance to the photograph exhibition in the Baxter corridor. Reeves photography had offered to re-photograph two of these for which no archive copy exists.
- > There was some discussion on National Heritage Open Day, and it was confirmed that the Town Hall and All Saints Centre were included (although not always featured in the Friends of Lewes leaflet). Posters were always mounted outside the premises. In answer to a question; it was confirmed that there was regular use of the organ at All Saints, although other organists would be welcome if they wished to use it; as regular use helped prevent some cumulative damage such as seized or ‘sticky’ valves. Direct approaches should be made to the Manager or Assistant Manager to ascertain availability. A welcome suggestion for enhancing future open days at All Saints was to run the films of Lewes in the 1930’s which had been discovered and digitized a few years ago.
- > Lewes District Council had agreed to ring ‘Gabriel’, the Market Tower bell, on the occasions of the centenaries of the renewal of the WW1 armistice at the War Memorial, preceding the peace treaty.
- > Cllr Mayhew’s research project on Lewes casualties in WW1 was almost

concluded and there was currently an exhibition of photographs in the Baxter corridor to accompany lectures in the Council Chamber. To complete the project it was considered that a booklet similar to that produced for the 'Our Pictures' project, and an online version, would offer a suitable legacy for the project; and this was agreed. The proposed date to complete was the 1922 centenary of the dedication of Lewes War Memorial.

- > Work was underway to the Magic Circle. A liaison meeting with the Friends of Lewes would be arranged in January.

**CmemsWP2018/13**

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

**CmemsWP2018/14**

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

*The meeting closed at 8:05pm*

Signed.....

Date .....

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