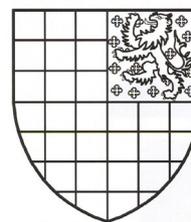


Town Hall  
High Street  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2QS

☎ 01273 471469 Fax: 01273 480919

✉ [info@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.lewes-tc.gov.uk](http://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 **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019** in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **3:00pm**.

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

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

**CmemsWP2018/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Makepeace, who had a family commitment.

**CmemsWP2018/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**CmemsWP2018/17 QUESTIONS:** There were none

**CmemsWP2018/18 MINUTES: It was resolved that:**

**CmemsWP2018/18.1** Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 are received and agreed as an accurate record.

**CmemsWP2018/19 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 The meeting welcomed Ms Brigitte Lardinois, attending to update Members on the recently-ended 'Lewes Light-box' project displaying features commemorating 100yrs of women's suffrage, and the exhibition hosted in the Baxter corridor of the Town Hall. This had been a resounding success and the organizing team offered grateful thanks to the Council for its support. A much-admired element of the exhibition had been a commemorative quilt hand-made by a local lady, Heather Downey, and she now offered this on permanent loan to the Council. It was considered that the quilt would complement the permanent display in the Corn Exchange on the subject of democracy, and the Friends of Lewes had offered to pay for a suitable frame, glazed to resist ultra-violet light. It was suggested that Ms Downey could present the quilt on the occasion of the Mayor's planned event when 100 local school girls had been invited to mark the centenary of the vote for women. This offer was gratefully accepted on behalf of the Council, and Ms Lardinois and her team were commended on the extremely well-received and interesting exhibition.

It was noted that the plywood display boards that had been constructed specially to mount an earlier exhibition in the Baxter corridor, whilst very useful, were very heavy and over-engineered for their function – making them unwieldy to store and to use. The team from the Reeves Archive (RA) project, who had arranged the previous exhibitions and light-box material, had offered to redesign a lighter-weight and more practical display system that could be held in the Town Hall and be available for shared use. It was suggested that the design and construction would be carried-out by the RA team but Council might contribute the cost of materials. This was agreed in-principle; subject to costs being established before any final decision.

The 80 light boxes were to be deployed along the High Street in September to support National Heritage Open Day, displaying historical photographs of everyday life in the street. This would involve a series of glass plates from the Reeves Archive which had previously never been enlarged but, once enhanced, showed hitherto unseen features too small to discern at the original scale. These

were said to offer fascinating insights into the life of the town centre. Ms Lardinois was thanked for bringing the continually-developing series of themed exhibitions to the town, and encouraged to apply for grant support in due course.

2 It was noted that as the four-year commemoration of the first World War came to an end, the “prolongation” events held at the War memorial to mark the ceasefire renewals were said to be useful and educational. The last, held on the previous Saturday, had been observed by a significant number of people. It was noted that the War Memorial was in need of some cleaning to remove algae, and the grass may need attention as Spring commenced.

3 Members were aware that as WW1 commemorations approached their conclusion, notable anniversaries of significant events in WW2 were approaching. Ideas would be welcomed.

4 It was understood that the organizer of the International Day of Peace event in the Town Hall in 2017 would like to offer a similar event this year, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and this was welcomed.

5 Ms Carmen Slijpen, Director of The Depot cinema, had approached the Council with a suggestion of partnership in an interesting and educational international youth event. Now in its third year, the European Film Academy Young Audience Award would present three films, selected by young people, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 screened simultaneously in over 50 cities across 35 countries and aimed at audiences of young people aged around 12 – 14 years. At each screening centre the films are followed by facilitated “jury” discussion and international ‘chat’ via webcam. At the end of the day the films are subject to a vote, and the final assessment (hosted in Germany) is transmitted back to the local centres by live streaming technology.

The cities participating were nearly all capital or major cities, such as Athens; Brisbane; Barcelona; Florence; Istanbul; Prague; Reykjavik; Rome; Zurich *etc* and the British Film Institute (BFI) had nominated for the UK for 2019 Glasgow; Sheffield, and LEWES – the Depot. Ms Slijpen proposed that the Mayor introduced and ended the day with a short talk, and that the event would be publicized as a partnership with the Council. It was hoped that Council would be willing to support some of the costs\* such as publicity for the event and catering for the young people through the day. The Depot was able to offer all the technical facilities required to host the day including ‘extras’ such as a webcam-equipped video-chat booth, and the EFA/BFI provided facilities such as subtitles and explanatory educational material. Members were very keen to support this and suggested Council should be asked to agree up to £4,000. TC confirmed that there was an unspent balance of over £1,000 in the Grants budget and the Mayor had indicated that she was happy to contribute from unspent Mayoral budgets. Other funds could be found if required.

*\* - post-meeting note: At the time of the meeting these were being calculated, but it has since been established that the Council would be asked to contribute £2,037.*

6 There followed a general discussion on various matters of interest:

At the Working Party’s previous meeting the grandson of the local architect Rowland Hawke Halls, Mr David Scott Cowan, had suggested that the family had material to form a small commemorative exhibition, and this had been provisionally agreed. Nothing further had been heard on the matter, and Mr Cowan’s intentions would be investigated.

The potential acquisition of the Market Tower was briefly discussed, and it was advised that a retired local signmaker and keen historian, Mr John Geering, had kindly offered to re-gild the weather vane and re-finish the armorial bearings displayed on the building, should it return to Town ownership. This offer was gratefully acknowledged.

It was understood that local residents were planning a celebration to mark the centenary of the gift of The Pells to the town on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1919 by Wynne Baxter. This prompted the suggestion of an interpretation board for the area to explain its history, and this could follow the design of the purpose-made wildfowl feeding advice boards installed at the lake.

In answer to a question regarding the nominated 'gallery days' at the Town Hall, it was noted that the "Our Pictures" project was not yet fully completed; still pending launch to teachers of the education resource pack and arrangements with local history groups who had wished to be involved in any organized programme.

**CmemsWP2018/20**

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

It was noted that there were several noteworthy commemorations likely in the next few years, and Council would be asked to mandate the Working Party as a standing committee to allow appropriate responses to these events.

**CmemsWP2018/21**

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

*The meeting closed at 4:15pm*

Signed.....

Date .....

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