

Town Hall
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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

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To: Cllrs Catlin; Earl; Makepeace; Maples; Dr Mayhew; Milner; O'Keeffe; Vernon, and Wood

A Meeting of the **Commemorations Committee** will be held online* on **Thursday 12th August 2021** at **3:00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

***VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:** This meeting can be joined using computer video & audio using any suitably equipped digital device (eg laptop; tablet or smartphone) or, by audio only, using a telephone.

To join this meeting either follow this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85687254098>

Or telephone 0131 460 1196 or +44 (0)330 088 5830. Use **Meeting ID: 856 8725 4098**

***Please also see the note below regarding password-controlled access to this online meeting**

S Brigden, Town Clerk 30th July 2021

AGENDA

1. ELECTION of CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the Committee for the 2021/22 year.

2. QUESTION TIME

To consider any questions received regarding items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

To receive apologies from members of the Working-party who are unable to attend.

4. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To note declarations of any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on this agenda.

5. MINUTES:

To agree Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2020

(attached, page 3)

6. REMIT of the COMMITTEE

› Originally a Working Party set up in 2012 to address a number of imminent commemorations; this body had its mandate extended in response to the similar considerations arising through to 2019; when it was established as a standing committee to address the continuing volume of noteworthy commemorations foreseeable in the next few years.

› The Commemorations & Events Committee is mandated to consider significant anniversaries/centenaries or similar occasions, and such notable events as may be presented, and to formulate recommendations for Council as to the appropriate recognition of them.

7. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Consideration of projects and events:

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|---|---|
| a) Climate Festival 19 th September 2021 | <i>(LTC representatives on planning group will present)</i> |
| b) Formation of a Lewes Arts Council <i>(feasibility study)</i> | <i>Cllr Catlin will present</i> |
| c) Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 | <i>(Civic Officer will present)</i> |
| d) 'The Queen's Green Canopy' initiative | <i>(Civic Officer will present)</i> |
| e) Centenary of Lewes War Memorial September 2022 | <i>(Cllr Dr Mayhew will present)</i> |
| f) Black History month | <i>(Cllr Baah will present)</i> |
| g) Tom Paine day | <i>(Cllr Milner will present)</i> |
| h) Pells interpretation boards | <i>(Cllr Dr Mayhew/ Pells History Group)</i> |

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE –

Members of the public have the right, and are welcome, to attend* this meeting of the Council – questions regarding items on the agenda may be heard at the start of the meeting with the Mayor's consent.

Questions or requests to address the meeting must be sent by email to the Town Clerk at least 3 days in advance.

This meeting will be held online via video link. To join the meeting follow the instructions above.

***Members of the public wishing to join this meeting must request a password by email at least 24 hours before the published start time. Please submit your request to townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk**

For guidance on joining online meetings please see the notes overleaf

developed a website to highlight the commemorative events and women's history in the town <http://www.vote100lewes.com/>. The group now intended to publish a booklet containing articles from the website to distribute to local schools and libraries - providing a tangible legacy from the suffrage events. It was said to be an appropriate time to do so, since this year is the centenary of the first woman becoming a Borough councillor in Lewes and also a hundred years since American women gained the vote. The draft booklet covered local women's history with a series of articles on '100 Lewes Women' past and present, and would include a write up of the event Girls for Change led by former Mayor, Janet Baah.

The Council was asked whether it would be willing to support the booklet and pay for printing costs. The group proposed to print 200 copies of a soft-cover booklet (88 pages) describing local women's history, the suffrage centenary events and the mayor's 'Girls for Change Day'. Quotes from printers had been obtained which compared favourably with similar projects by other history groups, and Council was asked for up to £1,400.

It was proposed to distribute around 30 complimentary copies of the booklet to local schools, libraries and contributors. The rest would sell at about £8-£9 to offset some of the costs of printing and potentially raise a modest sum for a local charity (unspecified).

Councillors considered this request, having been furnished with a copy of the draft booklet provided as a courtesy 'publisher's preview'. The matter was discussed at some length, and there was a general feeling that this was a very worthwhile idea and that such a book would serve as an appropriate legacy of the very well-regarded event at the Town Hall. There were, however, many concerns voiced regarding the content and the consensus was that they would prefer not to associate Council with the present form. This was felt to be a matter of editing; not a criticism of the concept, or obvious hard work that had gone into it so far.

Councillors were very engaged with this discussion; some of whom have academic, publishing, and local history backgrounds which they hoped set their comments in context as constructive criticism. These centred-upon a perceived inconsistent quality of content; and the use of Wikipedia as a primary source. This, it was felt, compromised the underlying quality of the book and its potential for use as an educational tool.

Salient examples were discussed of what was described as an 'idiosyncratic' choice of featured individuals. The high number of female footballers featured was described as disproportionate – it was commented that 'one should be enough'.

Consideration was given to making the group an offer for a much lower sum as a contribution towards comprehensively re-editing, but the amount Members would be prepared to recommend was recognized as inadequate. There was a shared view that the document would work as, perhaps, a website or 'print-on-demand' online item, but there was little confidence that it could be marketed as a printed book at the price indicated. There was also a comment that the beneficiary charity should be declared.

Committee members were generally in favour of the concept, and keen to indicate that if they could help with further development they would be pleased to do so.

It was agreed that these responses would be conveyed to the applicants.

Commems2020/10

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

The meeting closed at 4:40pm

Signed.....

Date