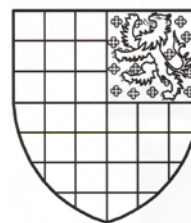


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider commemorations and significant events, held on **Monday 19th June 2017**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **2:00pm**.

PRESENT Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier (*Chairman*); I Makepeace; Dr G Mayhew; and R O'Keeffe

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

CmemsWP2017/01 ELECTION of CHAIRMAN: Cllr Chartier was elected as Chairman of the Working Party for 2017/18

CmemsWP2017/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and noted from Cllr R Murray, who was attending a foodbank.

CmemsWP2017/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

CmemsWP2017/04 QUESTIONS: There were none

CmemsWP2017/05 MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2016 were received and signed as an accurate record.

CmemsWP2017/06 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

The meeting welcomed Ms Debby Matthews and Mr John May, attending to propose a project to commemorate Dr Gideon Mantell, and Mr Ian Linton and Ms Louise Holloway, who wished to discuss recognition of Dr Colin Tingle, who had died recently. Dr Tingle had been energetic and dedicated in his work on the development of the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan among many other local initiatives.

1 *Commemoration of Dr Gideon Mantell* - Ms Matthews and Mr May presented background on previous initiatives related to Dr Gideon Mantell, Surgeon and Geologist, who was born in Lewes in 1790 and lived in the town. He is credited with inspiration of the first dinosaur studies following his discovery of the fossilized bones of the prehistoric *Iguanodon*. The last significant local event had marked the bicentenary of his death, but it was considered that history did not recognize him as prominently as he deserved. Arising from the popular 2016 Lewes Fossil Festival, a proposal emerged to create a sculpture/model of an *Iguanodon* and organizers had held discussions with a world-renowned modeller. They proposed a model measuring 3metres in height and 7metres in length, to be displayed somewhere in Lewes, and a film documentary accompanying the creation process. There was a possibility of links to the Universities of Yale and Wisconsin in the USA. Support was being sought for the project and agreement on possible locations; one of which they wished to discuss was the island in the Pells lake. The model would be made of resin, and was described as 'fairly robust', although as it would not withstand children climbing on it, or other hard contact, there was a need for perimeter and access control. Organizers hoped to site the model by Autumn 2018. Cost was estimated at around £100,000 and an application was being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A Community Interest Company had been established, although ultimate ownership of the model was to be determined. Members posed a number of questions and were interested in the principles of the project. In answer to a question, it was estimated that the lifespan of the resin model would be around twenty years.

Members welcomed the idea and were happy to support further discussions when more detail was available.

2 *Commemoration of Dr Colin Tingle* – Mr Linton described the significant contribution made to the development of the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan by Dr Tingle. Ms Holloway explained that he had also been well-known for his connection to other local issues, such as “Chalking up the benefits” with the South Downs National Park Authority, and work with the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Several ideas had been promoted *in memoriam*. The process to have a local bus named in his honour had been commenced independently, and other ideas included the establishment of ‘Rain gardens’ (to assist in the alleviation of flooding); public space; a named cycle/pedestrian route or walkway linking the town with the countryside and offering a wildlife corridor, and an annual award for an ‘A’-level student working in the field of sustainability or environment.

Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Linton and Ms Holloway for their heartfelt presentations. They were happy to support such dedication in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan as may be thought appropriate by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. They would recommend that Council support the naming of a local bus (preferably an environmentally-friendly model) and offer in-principle support to the emerging ideas of third-parties as described, such as a named “Tingle Way” in an appropriate location. Should it be that a student award could be instituted, Members were minded to ask Council to provide financial support for this.

3 *Peace Garden (‘Magic Circle’) project* – Members briefly discussed the development, by the Friends of Lewes (FoL), of a peace garden project for the ‘Magic Circle’ adjoining Castle ditch Lane. More detail and better estimates of cost were required before appropriate funding could be identified, and discussions would be held with the FoL to establish these. This led to a brief discussion which reaffirmed the mutual aspiration to create the garden in time for commemoration, in 2019, of the Treaty of Versailles which had formally ended WW1.

4 *‘Battle’s Over’ National programme of beacon fires 2018* – The Working Party considered this initiative, which would see beacons lit around the country on 11th November 2018. There was a general discussion on the subject of historic beacons and their use in/around Lewes. The detail of the initiative was scrutinized and it was felt to be a worthy project, and Members wished it success, but it was not one which they would recommend to Council.

5 *International Day of Peace* – Council had recently agreed to support an event commemorating this day on 21st September 2017 and asked the Working Party to look at details (*Resolution FC2017/24.2*). A number of typical events had been noted, and it was suggested that the most practical thing was to select one event to support. The theme of the 2017 IDP was to be “*Together for Peace – Respect; Safety and Dignity for all*”. Cllr Makepeace suggested that an event to lay a white poppy wreath would please many people, and others prompted that the local Peace Pledge Union might be encouraged to conduct a wreath-laying ceremony itself. There followed some debate as to the political status of the organization and questions of precedent and controversy. It was generally agreed that there should be separation from the context of war memorials and poppies. Organizations wishing to hold events at the war memorial would be welcome to do so, with the Council pursuing other avenues to mark the IDP. It was agreed that a further meeting should be held, when Members could consider the type of events held under the aegis of the United Nations, and issues such as diversity/inclusivity and perhaps screening of an appropriate film. If possible, facilities at the Town Hall and All Saints Centre would be reserved for 21st September in anticipation.

6 *Other matters* - Members noted various third-party projects being developed which could eventually interest or involve the Council, such as a Lewes Concert Orchestra performance relevant to the end of WW1 – ‘*All Have Their Part*’ (composer: Ruth O’Keeffe) – which was proposed for Summer or Autumn 2018; the musician and composer Helen Glavin interested to reprise her composition ‘*Winter of the World*’ first presented by the Council in October 2014; and a series of talks to schools by Cllr Dr Mayhew on his research into those from Lewes who died during WW1. TC gave a brief update on the progress of the ‘*Our Pictures*’ project, and recounted a recent visit hosted by the Hamilton Kerr Institute (who were advising and conserving the Council’s paintings) of a group of those who had volunteered to assist in implementation of the project.

CmemsWP2017/07

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

It was agreed to recommend that Council agrees the approach taken by the Working Party, and its particular conclusions as described above. The Working Party would meet again around the end of July.

CmemsWP2017/08

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

The meeting closed at 3:30pm

Signed.....

Date