

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 20 November 2014.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frank Pearce

**Councillors:**

p Phil Bailey	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Patricia Stallard
p Shaun Cully	p Alan Rice
p Brian Gurden	p Tim Rolt
p Rob Humby	p John Wall
p Mark Kemp-Gee	p Chris Wood

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor Keith Chapman – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

74. **BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

75. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received; all Members of the committee were present.

76. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting, they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in

Items to be actioned on the Committee's work programme:

accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

With regard to Item 9 'Grant funding for culture and community organisations in Hampshire 2015/2016' the following personal interests were declared:

Cllr Mark Kemp Gee – trustee of the Gilbert White Museum and the Kingsley Centre

Cllr Peter Chegwyn – provides funding to the Wickham Community Association

Cllr Patricia Stallard – the County Council's representative on the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, on the Board of Directors of the Theatre Royal Trust, and her husband is trustee of Denmead Community Association

Cllr Brian Gurden – on the Board of the Proteus Theatre Company

Cllr Frank Pearce – the County Council's representative on the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre

Cllr Alan Rice – trustee of Lymington Museum Trust

77. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 2 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

79. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the County Council and Winchester City Council had officially handed over the running of their museums, galleries and arts operations to the newly formed Hampshire Cultural Trust on 1 November 2014. The Trust is an independent charity run by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Alan Lovell and Janet Owen is the Trust's Executive Officer. The Trust will be able to build on past success and the launch weekend saw a great deal of media interest and public support. The Trust will provide Members of this Committee with a presentation and update at the January meeting.

The Chairman also reported that HMS M33, one of only two remaining World War I warships in the UK, was transferred to the National Museum of the Royal Navy in May 2014. The County Council had owned the ship since 1990 and the transfer took place as part of a strong partnership project with the Museum to save the ship for the nation. The joint project had seen a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid of £1.8 million, confirmed in September, to provide new and permanent public access to the ship. Work was now going ahead to deliver the project in time for the Gallipoli commemorations next year.

The Chairman also announced that in the 2014 National Highways and Transport Survey, published in October, the survey results showed that Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service was ranked 2nd for Customer Satisfaction with Rights of Way. This continues an upward trend from 13th in 2012 to 9th in 2013 and now 2nd across all Highway Authorities in the country. On behalf of the committee she congratulated the Countryside Service for achieving high public satisfaction.

80. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT**

The Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside gave a verbal report to the Committee. He highlighted that a competition had been held for school children to design plaques to commemorate the signing of the Magna Carta. He also reported that a number of events would be held in 2015 to mark the anniversary of significant battles, including a lecture on 8 April 2015 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallipoli, a lecture on 13 May 2015 for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Waterloo and events in October 2015 for the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Agincourt.

He reported that proposals were being developed to potentially move Emsworth Library out of a leasehold building into the nearby Community Association building. A decision on this was due to be taken in January 2015, and would come to the Select Committee for pre-scrutiny beforehand. He highlighted that a number of decisions going to his December Decision Day were on the committee's agenda for pre-scrutiny. Decisions not on the agenda for the select committee related to membership of the Countryside Access Forum, Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme Awards and the Deed of Waiver for the Andover Museum.

Members requested the report regarding the Talented Athlete Scheme be highlighted to all Members for their

Talented athlete scheme report highlighted to all members

information.

The Chairman thanked the Executive Member for the report, and proposed the following resolution, seconded by Cllr John Wall:

That the Select Committee notes that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside is happy to provide an update to the Committee on any matter where it is useful to the Committee's work and requested to do so.

That a report of the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside in relation to forthcoming decisions is no longer required on agendas of the Culture and Communities Select Committee.

The committee debated the proposal. Some Members wished to retain a report of the Executive Member on the agenda, to allow opportunity to question the Executive Member on items not on the agenda. Other Members were of the view it was unnecessary to do so, as the option remained to request any specific item within the remit of the committee be added to the agenda.

Following the debate the proposal was put to the vote and carried by majority vote (7 in favour to 6 against).

RESOLVED:

1. That the Select Committee notes that the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside is happy to provide an update to the Committee on any matter where it is useful to the Committee's work and requested to do so.

2. That a report of the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside in relation to forthcoming decisions is no longer required on agendas of the Culture and Communities Select Committee.

Work programme  
be updated

81. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO KINGSCLERE AND MILFORD-ON-SEA LIBRARIES**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 7 in the Minute Book regarding proposed changes affecting the libraries in Kingsclere and Milford-on-Sea.

It was reported that negotiations were ongoing with the Trust that runs Kingsclere Village Club (which houses the library), to establish if the County Council could enter into

an agreement with this organisation to run the library in future with local volunteers.

In Milford-on-Sea the Trust that runs the Village Hall (which houses the library) is willing to enter into an arrangement with the County Council to run the library in future with local volunteers.

Members debated the proposals, and some Members expressed concerns that using volunteers to provide a service posed a risk to the stability and continuity of the service. Other Members recognised the financial challenge faced by the County Council and supported the proposed approach, as it meant services would be able to continue. The Chairman highlighted that a Task & Finish Group was currently considering the future strategy for the Library and Information Service.

The proposed recommendations were put to the vote separately, with i) carried 7 for and 6 against, and ii) carried 10 for and 3 against. Cllr Gurden requested it be recorded that he voted against recommendation ii).

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommend that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- i. Continues discussions with Kingsclere Village Club with a view to transferring the running of Kingsclere Library to the Village Club on 31 March 2015. If agreement cannot be reached by 19 December 2014, the library will close on 31 March 2015 and be replaced by a weekly mobile library service.
- ii. Transfers of the running of Milford-on-Sea library to Milford-on-Sea Village Hall Trust on 31 March 2015.

82. **LEPE CAR PARKING REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding a review of the opening hours of the Lepe beach car park.

The Committee heard that options for extending opening hours of the car park had been considered, following a campaign by members of the public requesting the car park be open 24 hours a day seven days a week. The review had considered safety concerns and the views of key stakeholders such as the landowners. The

Recommendations passed to Executive Member

landowners were not supportive of keeping the car park open during hours of darkness.

Members discussed the proposals and supported achieving a balance between extending opening hours and security concerns. Members queried whether the costs of additional staff to close the car park would be met by additional parking charges income. It was responded that it was difficult to predict with any certainty, however it was anticipated any increase in costs would be manageable, and would be contained within the current budget. It was noted that the intention was for country parks to become cost neutral in future, and therefore the overall costs of running the site would need to be met by income generated.

The Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside indicated that the revised opening hours would be reviewed after they had been in operation for a few months, and would be brought back for further consideration by Members if the costs significantly exceeded income.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommend to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that he approves the recommended option to extend the car park opening times from April to September (as set out in option 3 of the report), subject to full cost recovery and agreement from the landowners.

Recommendations passed to Executive Member

83. **GRANT FUNDING FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 2015/2016**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding the applications received for major grants for 2015/16 from cultural, recreational and community organisations. It was noted that in most cases the proposed grant allocation was the amount of grant awarded for the previous financial year less 3%.

It was noted that the Select Committee would be initiating a Task & Finish group in 2015 to review the approach to grant funding for the future. It was reported that current levels of funding were historical and could be re-visited as part of this review. Members commented that there were examples of cultural organisations that thrived without grant funding from the County Council. The Executive Member for Culture Recreation and

Countryside confirmed that an event had been held for all grant funded organisations earlier in 2014, at which it was made clear that the County Council's funding position was challenging. He proposed to write to all organisations being awarded a grant this year, to encourage them to work towards being less reliant on grant funding in future.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommends to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that he:

- i) Approves grants from the Culture and Recreation Investment Fund totalling £640,530, as set out in Appendix 2.
- ii) Approves a Strategic Commission for Music for £60,000, as set out in Appendix 2.
- iii) Approves a Strategic Commission for Dance for £53,730, as set out in Appendix 2.
- iv) Approves £34,700 to Making Space in Leigh Park, as set out in Appendix 2.
- v) Approves a grant of £47,550 to the Countryside Access Forum, as set out in Appendix 2.
- vi) Approves a base budget transfer of £78,400 to the Arts and Museums Service budget, as set out in Appendix 2.
- vii) Approves grants from the Community Investment Fund totalling £101,470, as set out in Appendix 3.

84. **UPDATE ON THE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 10 in the Minute Book, providing an update on the progress of the Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Working Group.

The report was introduced and the progress of the Working Group was outlined. The valuable input of the stakeholder organisations which provided oral evidence was recognised.

Recommendations passed to Executive Member

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee notes the progress of the Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Working Group.

85. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Services, item 11 in the Minute Book, which set out the Committee's work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be noted, subject to any amendments arising from items considered at this meeting.

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Chairman