

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT COMMITTEE 29 March 2022
MINUTES OF MEETING

Present The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Stevens and Councillors Boulter (Chair), Carwardine, Hey, Hornsey, Kenyon, Oliver, Owens, Tyler, Wilcox and Williams.

Attending Becci O'Reilly Administration and Events Manager. Noted that the Town Clerk was attending by Zoom link due to post-COVID-19 isolation.

CD2021/22.77 H'APPLEFEST

The Chair proposed that this item be taken first as the Mayor needed to leave for another meeting. The Mayor reminded members of the history of this project which had been planned for 2021, but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. It was now planned for October 2022. It had been the subject of much discussion with the BID, the Police, Herefordshire Council and local cider producers and was gathering a great deal of support. It would be similar to Ciderlands International and the cider festival that Bulmers ran until 1972/73. The success of Ferrous bringing in visitors from the USA, Scandinavia and South Africa had proved that people will come from far and wide to Hereford if there is a decent festival to attract them.

The Cider Museum was heavily involved, and Encore would be providing live music and running the stage for the two weeks of the festival.

The BID were putting £7,500 into this project and the City Council was being asked to contribute £20,000.

In detailed discussions the following points were noted. Was two weeks too long and could the costs be brought down if the festival was self-organised by the participants? It was explained that the festival has a number of elements which need to be spread out to work well together and that a high level of organisation was necessary to ensure the festival was of a quality that would attract visitors and start to build a reputation to encourage returns in subsequent years. Ciderlands 2019 had been amazing and a good strong festival in Hereford would enhance the reputation of the City. If we are going do it at all, we need to do it well.

The arrangements for the banquet and the possibility of using this to create additional income were also discussed.

It was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Committee supports the H'applefest project and agrees to release £20,000 from the City Events budget to fund the festival.

CD2021/22.78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

CD2021/22.79 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

CD2021/22.80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CD2021/22.81 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Tyler and unanimously

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings of 14 September 2021, and the grants meetings of 22 November 2021 and 14 February 2022 be accepted as accurate records and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CD2021/22.82 THREE CHOIRS GRANT

The Chair welcomed Alexis Patterson to the meeting. Alexis explained that the reason for this presentation was to ask Council to agree to a variation to the terms of the original Three Choirs grant. This had been based on a community participation piece called Gaspard's Foxtrot, loosely based on Peter and the Wolf. As the Shire Hall was no longer available, no suitable venue could be found to put this piece on, so a new programme of community music was planned instead. The intention was to put on something that would engage with younger people, attract those not normally into classical music, or who felt it was for someone else and not for them. It would involve different ages in a piece which they would contribute to making, it would not just be about listening. The creative processes and engagement in those is as important, perhaps more so, than the finished product.

The piece would involve pianos and violins, reflect Herefordshire folklore, have opportunities for families to draw and create as well as make music and standing up and telling stories so there would be something for everyone regardless of their musical ability.

There would be open mic sessions for groups or individuals to perform. The costs included signage and advertising and the intention is to maintain the original premise on which the grant was awarded but with many changes of detail and content.

There then followed a detailed discussion of both the specific proposal and the wider nature of Three Choirs and the original grant. Members asked for details of the project and how many people it was expected would be able to access the events. About 30-35 people would be able to attend the sessions in the Garrick. Other elements would be much more flexible and could accommodate up to 100 participants. Some members felt that to be a mainstream Three Choirs event this would need to be in the Cathedral, it felt like something bolted on to justify a grant. Others felt that the change to a launch event outside the Cathedral, and this event, were sufficient evidence that there was an intention to reach out beyond a traditional setting but that the festival could not expect a substantial grant when it had other sources of income and that this might be the last time it was supported at the current level.

The Clerk and the Administration and Events Manger reminded members that the discussion was not about the original grant of £24,000, but only about whether this change of use was reasonable and still met the Council's priority of having a community element to the festival. It was noted that if members felt it did not, then it would be lawful to ask for the grant to be returned. Alexis added that if the grant has to be returned it will affect the community event which will be significantly slimmed down, but there would still be some element of this in the overall Three Choirs programme. Alexis was thanked for coping with a prolonged grilling on her presentation. It was stated that to some extent Council was being asked to make a leap of

faith that this would be an effective and worthwhile event that would reach out beyond the traditional audience and bring some true community benefit. That was the nub of the issue before the Committee on this occasion.

Councillor Hornsey, who is one of the Council representatives to Three Choirs said she had initially found it rather elitist and was pleased that this event was being proposed as a variation on the original idea and that it was worth supporting.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and by nine votes to one

RESOLVED To agree that Three Choirs may vary the use of the City Council grant for the original piece planned as part of the 2022 festival to be used for their revised community outreach element.

CD2021/22.83 COURTYARD THEATRE OUSTANDING MONIES

The Administration and Events Manager presented the information supplied by the Courtyard concerning their plans for the remaining £3,508 of their Service Level Agreement allocation. Members noted that this organisation continues to give good value for money and have a comprehensive programme of community engagement.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Williams and, with one abstention

RESOLVED To approve the planned use of the remaining SLA monies by the Courtyard Theatre.

CD2021/22.84 COMPOSTING TOILET AT CORPORATION FARM ALLOTMENT

The Clerk introduced this item, explaining that it should lead to a reduction in metered water use and sewerage charges, as well as being an environmental improvement. If this works out, there will be other sites where toilets, which are quite dilapidated, could be replaced by a more environmentally friendly and cost effective provision.

Councillor Kenyon added that he had discussed this in his role as the member who liaises with the Allotments Society, and he felt the 50/50 split proposed was a good idea. He would be supporting this initial experiment and hoped it was a success, and others would be installed at other sites where the old toilets were in poor condition.

It was noted that if the Council pays up front and owns the asset, we would be able to recover the VAT fully.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Owens and, with one abstention

RESOLVED That the Committee agrees to the half funding of a composting toilet for Corporation Farm allotment at a cost of £1,600.

CD2021/22.85 PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTIES

The report was presented, and members raised a number of points of detail. It was confirmed that the grant could be used for food, or for costs such as insurance or hiring tables. That was entirely up to the organisers. It was likely that charges for traffic orders to close roads would

be waived by Herefordshire Council so the grants would not subsidise that Council. The use of delegated powers for the Clerk or the External Funding and Community Support Officer would enable applications to be turned around quickly. Members noted that the formal proposal did not restrict the use of the grants and that it would be reasonable to allow performance fees to be included in the allocation, depending on how other costs were being met by organisers. It was also felt that a round figure of £500 was more appropriate than £450.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Clerk and External Funding and Community Support Officer be given delegated authority to agree small grants of up to £500 to support Platinum Jubilee events by community groups or individuals.

CD2021/22.86 NEW GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The Administration and Events Manager reported that this was not yet ready for approval. It would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee, which would be a grants meeting, and would be both much shorter and clearer than the current form.

CD2021/22.87 CITY DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Councillor Tyler updated the Committee on the proposal to have a defibrillator accessible within 90 seconds of an emergency. Information was still being collected on current locations, and on how many had been used and how often. It was therefore agreed to defer this item until the next meeting of the Committee.

Members noted that publicity about locations was important although there was some evidence that this had led to machines being stolen, four had been taken from sites in Birmingham for example. West Midlands Ambulance Service were keen to engage with communities about areas of poor coverage.

CD2021/22.88 NATIONAL DEMENTIA WEEK

Members noted the information circulated.

CD2021/22.89 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Grants application form.

Defibrillator.

Further support for local groups supporting Ukrainian refugees and/or for Jaworzno.

CD2021/22.90 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 25 April 2022 at 10am (Grants)

Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 6pm (Beginning with election of Chair and Vice Chair)

Signed

Date