

## LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday 13 November 2012 at 7.34pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill**

**Present:**                      **Chair: Town Councillor: P Hanlon**  
    **Town Councillors: L Ager, E Goody,**  
    **B Hawes and D Russo**

**Two members of the public were present.**

### **MINUTES**

### **ACTION**

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Byrne and G Stroud.
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Ager declared an interest in item 6 on the agenda as President of the Haverhill Royal British Legion. Councillor Goody declared an interest in item 6 on the agenda due to an association with the Haverhill Royal British Legion. It was agreed that neither would participate in the discussion or decision on the awarding of a grant to Haverhill Royal British Legion.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2012 were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**  
The Town Clerk reported that at its meeting on 25 September 2012, the ONE Haverhill Board had voted not to allow the public to attend its meetings. This was following a debate that had provided reassurances that accountability for spending decisions would be retained by the member councils.  
  
The Town Clerk further reported that Warren Smyth of Abbeycroft Leisure would be invited to the next meeting of the committee.
5. **For Members with Prejudicial Interests and/or Members of the Public to Speak on Matters on the Agenda**  
No members with prejudicial interests or members of the public spoke on matters on the agenda.
6. **To receive a presentation on a project to improve St Mary's Churchyard and a request for funding**  
The Town Clerk introduced this item with an overview of proposed changes to St Mary's Churchyard, including replanting of the garden areas, installation of artwork, reinstatement of headstones and groundworks. The Town Council had been working with Haverhill in Bloom, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and other organisations to develop the proposals, which would be in two phases.

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Ben Pumfrey, Chair of Haverhill in Bloom provided further detail of the project, which would make use of the existing architecture and involve the community – in particular schools – in the development of the artwork. Longer term proposals included installation of lighting and possibly fencing. Funding had already been secured from ONE Haverhill and St Edmundsbury Borough

Council. The cost of the first phase of the work was estimated at £15,000. The second phase, including lighting, could cost an additional £60,000.

Cllr Goody proposed a contribution of £10,000 to be funded from the Council's earmarked reserve for Town Centre Development. Councillors agreed this proposal.

***Councillors agreed that part of item 9 would be taken at this point to allow Michelle Brace, Media Hub Projects Officer, to outline the work of the CB9 Media Hub.***

Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager, introduced the history and work of the Media Hub, which had delivered a range of multimedia projects, events and workshops since 2007 aimed at supporting young people, particularly those at risk of becoming NEET or engaging in anti-social behaviour. £40,000 in additional funding had been generated by its work.

Michelle Brace, Media Hub Projects Officer, provided a more in-depth presentation of the work undertaken by the Media Hub, supported by two young people, Jake and Andy. Jake explained that the Media Hub provided young people with a facility that engaged them in a way that many in Haverhill enjoy.

Michelle and Nick provided further information on the Hangar Project that had been discussed and agreed at the last committee meeting.

Councillors thanked Michelle for her work and her attendance at the meeting.

## **7. To Determine Current Grant Applications**

The Committee agreed the following grant applications:

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Castle Manor Academy	<b>£400.00</b>	<b>£400.00</b>
Haverhill Royal British Legion	<b>£200.00</b>	<b>£200.00</b>
ITFC Charitable Trust	<b>£400.00</b>	<b>£400.00</b>
Open Road	<b>£385.00</b>	<b>£385.00</b>

Vivienne Wiggins of Open Road attended until this item, to provide an update on the work of Open Road and explanation of some of the detail of their grant application. She confirmed that the service at Strasbourg Square had commenced some five weeks previously and was currently available on Mondays. CRI would be opening on Wednesdays there soon.

In relation to the application, Vivienne explained that other funding had been secured including contributions from ONE Haverhill and the Marsh Christian Trust. She also explained that the bank balance shown in the application, although significant, was to cover running costs for a period of three months only.

In response to councillors questions, Vivienne confirmed:

- that the facility was currently helping 4 people per day
- that Open Road was working with the Probation Service to obtain referrals
- that pub landlords and other organisations would be asked to display

promotional material

Vivienne agreed to a request that Open Road return to provide a further update in 6 months.

**8. Haverhill Flag Festival**

Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager, outlined the background to this item, in particular the success of the summer 2012 flag display. He further described the brief for a proposed project to involve the community in the design of seasonal, Haverhill-themed flags that would be flown on the newly installed church flagpole throughout the year, and in the High Street and Market Square during the summer months. This community initiative would link well with the artwork proposed for the churchyard. The overall cost of the project was estimated at £11,150, to be funded from the earmarked reserve (£2,000), the 2012/13 Arts Development budget (£1,750), grant applications (£4,000), and a budget item for 2013/14.

In response to councillors' questions, Nick confirmed that there would be some 35 flags in total, that sponsorship would be investigated, and that the flag festival would be tied into the summer festival.

Cllr Hawes proposed that the funding should be agreed as proposed, subject to the £4,000 grant funding being obtained. Councillors agreed this proposal.

**9. To Receive a Report on Recent and Future Activities**

Nick Keeble, Arts and Leisure Manager, gave a verbal report on recent activities, including the very successful Halloween Trail, which had attracted some 4,000 people. The current programme was performing beyond expectations.

In respect of future activities, Nick confirmed that there would be two pantomimes, and that the Jo Brand event had already sold out. Booking for the programme to May 2013 had just been completed and members would be advised of its content.

Cllr Goody thanked Nick and the Arts Centre staff for their continued hard work.

**10. Haverhill Carnival 2013**

The Town Clerk introduced this item, and advised that following a discussion at the previous committee meeting, Cllr Hawes had written to the Rotary and Lions Clubs to ask whether they would be prepared to oversee the reintroduction of a carnival. The Rotary Club had replied, indicating a willingness to be involved, but making clear that they did not have the capacity to organize such an event.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to Newmarket and Saffron Walden Town Councils, to establish the costs and issues associated with insurance, and to larger businesses and community groups to determine whether the demand exists for such an event.

**11. Financial Report, Haverhill Arts Centre and Haverhill Arts & Leisure**

Councillors agreed that this item should be deferred, to allow time for the more pressing discussion of agenda item 12.

*In accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press were excluded from the remainder of*

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*the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted*

**12. To approve the purchase of a digital cinema projector**

Councillors approved the awarding of a contract to Future Projections Ltd for the supply and installation of digital projection equipment, to include alternative content and automation functionality. Councillors further agreed that the cost should be met from the earmarked reserve for long term maintenance, and that an audio upgrade also be pursued. Councillors agreed that no further approval would be needed if both the digital projection and audio equipment could be purchased from within the previously agreed funding allocation.

**11. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.21pm.

