

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee held by Video Conferencing on Monday, 1 February 2021 10.03 a.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jonathan McColl and Brian Walker.

Attending: Malcolm Bennie, Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; George Hawthorn, Manager of Democratic and Registration Services; Amanda Graham, Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager; Michelle Lynn, Assets Coordinator; Joe Reilly, Finance Business Partner; Sarah Christie, Team Lead – Arts & Heritage and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Bailie Denis Agnew in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Cultural Committee held on 23 November 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

TOWN TWINNING AND 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLYDEBANK BLITZ - UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Regulatory & Regeneration providing an update on town twinning and seeking decisions in respect of preparations for the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the planned visit to meet with the Mayor of Letterkenny would take place at some point in the next financial year when it was safe to do so;
- (2) to approve the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Clydebank Blitz (the Working Group), as follows:-
 - (i) to postpone the planned concerts by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) in the Town Hall and local churches until November 2021 and notify all relevant parties accordingly;
 - (ii) to agree, due to current Covid -19 restrictions, that the unveiling of the plaque at Solidarity Plaza, the laying of wreaths at Old Dalnottar Cemetery and the presentation of medals cannot take place as previously planned and therefore authority be delegated to the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, in consultation with Provost Hendrie and Bailie Agnew, to organise a scaled down version of these events providing this was permitted within the level of restrictions in place at that time;
 - (iii) to approve the proposal by the RSNO to commission, record and film a piece of music to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz as outlined in the Appendix to this report at a cost of approximately £21,550 subject to agreement being reached between the Council and the RSNO on the co-commissioning of the music and appropriate sharing of rights on its use; and
 - (iv) to approve, in principle, the production of a booklet to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz up to a maximum cost of £1,999 and that authority be delegated to the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, in consultation with Bailie Agnew, to progress the matter;
- (3) that the £10,000 previously earmarked for the purchase of art from the 2019/20 Cultural budget and the £500 set aside for the visit to Letterkenny be used towards the costs of the Blitz in 2020/21; and
- (4) to recommend that the balance of cultural funding remaining in 2020/21 (approximately £4,000) be earmarked for use towards the cost of Blitz events which have been rescheduled to take place in 2021/22.

The Committee also agreed to note the terms of the verbal update given by the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services concerning a positive response received from the President of Gdynia, via the Polish Consulate, in relation to forming a friendship agreement.

A DEDICATED MUSEUM ON CLYDEBANK'S HISTORY AND LEGACY

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Cultural Committee held on 25 November 2019 a verbal update was given by the Chief Officer – Citizens, Culture & Facilities in relation to this standing item of business.

Having heard the Chief Officer, the Committee agreed to note the current position and terms of the verbal update given.

CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL REVISED IMPROVEMENT WORKS

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Citizens, Culture & Facilities proposing a revised programme of improvement works within Clydebank Town Hall in order to create an enhanced and sustainable civic building.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer and the Assets Coordinator in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to proceed with the Town Hall improvement works as outlined in the report;
- (2) to approve a reduced allocation of £0.95m from the Cultural Capital Fund for these purposes; and
- (3) that officers be authorised to proceed to go to tender for the improvement works.

THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Citizens, Culture & Facilities providing an update on the 2021 West Dunbartonshire Council Pro-am Golf Tournament.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to approve the cancellation of the 2021 West Dunbartonshire Council Pro-am Golf Tournament, due to be held in May 2021, given the ongoing uncertainties relating to Covid-19.

The meeting closed at 11.13 a.m.