

minutes

Meeting

CULTURE COMMITTEE

Date

3 December 2013

(commencing at 10:30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chairman)
Alan Bell (Vice-Chairman)
Pauline Allan
Chris Barnfather
John Cottee
Maureen Dobson
Sybil Fielding
Alice Grice
Tom Hollis
Roger Jackson
Yvonne Woodhead

Ex-officio (non-voting)

A Alan Rhodes

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

None.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Derek Higton - Service Director, Youth, Families and Cultural Services
Peter Gaw - Group Manager Libraries, Archives & Information
Heather Stokes - Team Manager, Conservation
Steve Bradley – Group Manager, Cultural and Enrichment Services
Linda Hardy – Country Parks Service
Kirsty Blyth – Team Manager, Library Service Development

Martin Gately - Democratic Services Officer

MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that Councillor Yvonne Woodhead had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor John Clarke for this meeting only.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2013

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 October were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman explained that the Nottinghamshire Olympic Legacy Game Changer Fund policy would now be considered by Policy Committee. Policy Committee originated the scheme and will decide whether or not to proceed with the grants in light of the current financial pressures. If the grants are to be proceeded with then decisions on the allocation of grants will be determined by Culture Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

INTRODUCTION TO SERVICES – CONSERVATION

Heather Stokes gave a detailed and informative presentation to the Committee on the Conservation Service. Members heard that the service was responsible for the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historical environment of Nottinghamshire. The service operated biological and geological nature partnerships and also held data on protected species, such as great crested newts and white clawed crayfish.

The service also maintains the Historic Environment Record, which contains data on 8900 archaeological sites, including the battlefield at East Stoke, Roman sites, crop marks, as well as the concentration of archaeology and listed buildings in Southwell. The service undertakes a county-wide survey of buildings at risk and manages 4300 volunteer hours in relation to community archaeology.

Members welcomed the presentation and invaluable work being undertaken by this small team.

RESOLVED 2013/52

That the introductory service presentation be noted and commented upon.

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING IN ENGLAND – GREEN PAPER

RESOLVED 2013/53

That the appended comments that were sent to the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs on 6 November 2013 be ratified.

SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 16 SEPTEMBER TO 10 NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED: 2013/54

That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT (1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013)

RESOLVED: 2013/55

That the performance of the Council's cultural services during the period 1 April – 30 September 2013 be noted.

THE IMPACT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICES

RESOLVED: 2013/56

That the results of research into the impact of Nottinghamshire Library Service upon library users be noted.

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REPLACEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED: 2013/57

That the principle of working in an extended consortium in the re-procurement and provision of a Library Management System be approved.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2013

RESOLVED: 2013/58

That the update on the Summer Reading Challenge 2013 reading initiative be noted.

SURVEY OF VISITORS TO BRITISH ARCHIVES 2012 – PERFORMANCE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

RESOLVED: 2013/59

That the performance of Nottinghamshire Archives in the 2012 Survey of Visitors to British Archives be noted.

FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15 FOR THE COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATE SERVICE

RESOLVED: 2013/60

That the charging regime as set out in paragraph 6 of the report be adopted for 2014/15

That the Group Manager Country Parks and the Green Estate Service, in consultation with the Chairman of the Culture Committee be authorised to retain a flexible approach to charging throughout the year and that the current charges can be varied or the charging period extended as the circumstances warrant.

That car parking charges be further reviewed as part of the wider commercial analysis currently being undertaken of trading activity on country parks and that the results of this review be brought back to a future Culture Committee for analysis and discussion.

THE ROBIN HOOD FESTIVAL

RESOLVED: 2013/61

That the success of the 2013 Robin Hood Festival be noted.

That the 30th Robin Hood Festival take place on 4-10 August 2014, organised by the Country Parks Service

That an amount of £75,000 is earmarked in the County Council's reserves to act as a contingency in case of adverse weather etc. for the 2014 Festival.

That the special event car parking fee for the Festival will be held at £5 for all visitors

That the road closure and local parking restrictions carried out this year will be repeated in 2014.

2013 VISITOR SATISFACTION SURVEYS IN COUNTRY PARKS

RESOLVED: 2013/62

That the outcome of the 2013 annual visitor satisfaction surveys at Rufford Abbey Country Park and Sherwood Forest Country Park, and of the result of the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) annual inspection at Rufford Abbey Country Park, be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2013/63

The work programme and its contents were noted.

The meeting closed at 12:20 pm.

CHAIRMAN