

HANGER FARM ARTS CENTRE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Hanger Farm Arts Centre Consultative Committee held at the Hanger Farm Arts Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 10 June 2008

PRESENT: Councillor L.E. Harris – Chairman
Councillor J.M. Sawyer and Mrs P.M. Hibbert
Councillor Mrs D.M. Brooks (representing New Forest District Council)
Councillor A. Weeks (representing Hampshire County Council)
Mr D. Thomas, Assistant Principal Skills, Totton College
Mr T. Malcolm, Totton College
Town Clerk, Hanger Farm Arts Centre Co-ordinator, Hanger Farm Arts Centre Programmes Co-ordinator and the Committee Manager

CHAIRMAN It was proposed by Councillor Mrs D.M. Brooks seconded by Councillor A. Weeks and unanimously agreed that Councillor L.E. Harris be Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

MANAGEMENT REPORT The Committee considered the Management Report from the Centre Co-ordinator and discussion took place on various aspects. It was stated that the Centre were still struggling with audience figures and that they would like to explore the possibility of talking to all four County Councillors from Totton and the Waterside to look at funding. There were potentially 80,000 residents from that area to tap into and they would like to hold new activities. The College was working closely with the County Councillors. It was suggested that other County Councillors adjoining the Town could be approached.

The Centre had also been approached by an individual in business who would be interested in hiring the Centre. It was thought a good idea to engage with the business community.

It was noted that the balance of the Council's Arts grant money would be paid to the Centre for 07/08.

CURRENT PROGRAMME AND FUTURE FUNDING

The current programme, which was coming to an end, had gone well. The question of holding weddings had been raised and there had been some confusion from the Centre in connection with the Resolution of the Council. It was agreed to ask Amenities Committee to consider again the question of holding Wedding Receptions at Hanger Farm Arts Centre. There was always a need to look at funding as Hanger Farm did not receive any money from the Arts Council or Hampshire County Council which most other Centres were fortunate to receive. It was stated that Hampshire County Council had reduced funding for the arts.

There were several applications for funding pending at the present time. Even though the audience figures were still struggling, the hiring side of the Centre was going well

The Centre were raising their profile all the time and was represented at the Arts Forum. One of the major income sources was from Totton College, but it was not known how the College envisage the arts in the future.

The Centre were looking forward to "Barn Fest" on the 21 June 2008. This was a free afternoon of arts, crafts and fun for all the family with performances by local groups, live music, poetry, storytelling and animation.

One of the main problems was that many people still did not know the Centre existed. It was agreed that when the Town Council complete the proposed survey for the Eling Experience they would also include Hanger Farm. This survey would cover the area of Totton and Eling. It was also suggested that a map be put of the Notice Board at the entrance to Hanger Farm Park showing all the facilities on site.

The need for a professional ticketing system was discussed and the Town Clerk informed the Committee that the new Town Council web site had the facility for on-line booking. This option be investigated to see if it would be suitable for the Arts Centre.

MAINTENANCE ITEMS All the servicing had been completed for the year. The problem with the lights bulb had now been resolved. Lead had been stolen from the roof for a second time and there was a need to investigate if there were any different options that would be suitable. It was also suggested that extra lighting in connection with the CCTV or a sensor light on the top of the apex may be helpful.

Signage to the Centre still continued to be a problem. There was no sign from the By-pass, this was desperately needed.

It was suggested that if the Centre would like to do a brief presentation to Amenities Committee, this could always be arranged, and an article in the "Local News" could always be accommodated.

It was also agreed to again invite the National Park Authority to use the Centre for one of their meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next meeting of the Hanger Farm Arts Centre Consultative Committee be arranged for Tuesday 18 November 2008.

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.