

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 18 November 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D.M. Brooks – Chairman
Mrs P.M. Hibbert
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

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.E. Harris, J.M. Sawyer and A. Weeks.

CHAIRMAN As the Chairman had given his apologies it was proposed by Mrs P.M. Hibbert, seconded by Mr T. Malcolm and unanimously agreed that Councillor Mrs D.M. Brooks be Chairman for the meeting.

MANAGEMENT REPORT The Committee considered the Management Report from the Centre Co-ordinator and discussion took place on various aspects. The Autumn/Winter 2008 programme had a brand new format and 48,000 copies had been circulated within the Town and surrounding area. This had resulted in an increase on the mailing list in the last couple of months.

Audience figures had increased over recent months with events and workshops being well attended. Enquiries for hiring the centre were continuing bringing more people into the Centre. There had been many positive feedbacks from people attending the events.

The Arts Centre Technician left at the end of September and her departure had prompted a reorganisation within the centre which was to be split into three part-time positions. A new technician has been employed on a casual basis to attend programmed events as and when required. A new Arts Centre Assistant was being recruited to help with the Centre and manage Front of House when other staff were not available. It was hoped in the future to recruit a part-time technician for the Performing Arts Department.

CURRENT PROGRAMME AND FUTURE FUNDING As stated above the current programme was being received very well and the Spring/Summer 2009 programme was being compiled at the present time. The intention of waiting to ask the local County Councillors to help with funding was to see if the core funding bid had been successful and then ask the County Councillors to match that amount. Unfortunately the bid had not been successful and the County Councillors were now to be approached for any funding that they had available.

The question of the professional ticketing system was discussed and the Town Clerk explained that the Town Council's web site had not up to the present time, been used for a professional booking system, although this could be possible. It was thought that perhaps someone from the IT section at the College may be able to help.

Hampshire County Council were launching a new booking system for their Centres and it was suggested that they could be approached to see if it was possible to include Hanger Farm Arts Centre.

The need for Brown Signs was discussed, but there were many restrictions with them and they were costly to install. It was suggested that maybe all three Centres at Hanger Farm Park could be put together, but funding may be an issue.

The Town Council had conducted a survey in respect of Hanger Farm Arts Centre together with the Eling Tide Mill. The results were attached.

MAINTENANCE ITEMS The lead had again been stolen from the roof at the beginning of July. As this was a reoccurring problem they were now being replaced with ridge tiles with the work being completed in the near future. The question of further CCTV coverage was discussed, but this would prove expensive. There were 3 lights on the roof, extra floodlighting may help. New Forest District Council would need to be contacted in respect of any conservation issues. It would be helpful if the timing of the lights on the entrance path to the Park could be extended to the latest performance time, 12.30am was thought to be a suitable time to cover all performances. The new emergency lights on the end of the grids have all failed, the company who installed them have been informed and were investigating the problem.

All equipment had been serviced. The building was still very hot in the summer but to install air conditioning would cost about £10,000. The Town Clerk said that he would put an item on the next Amenities Committee agenda to see if this could be funded through Town Council balances.

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 next meeting of the Hanger Farm Arts Centre Consultative Committee be held in May/June 2009 (date to be confirmed later)

Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.