

# Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor  
Cllr Paul Davis



Town Clerk  
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## WELLINGTON FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held in person, on 1<sup>st</sup> December **2021** commencing at 10:30am.

Present

Cllr A Lowe (Chairman)	<b>Apologies:</b>
Cllr J Pierce	Cllr P Fairclough
Cllr Joan Gorse	
Cllr John Alvey	
Paola Armstrong	

- 1. Welcome and Introductory remarks.**  
Cllr Lowe welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 3. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Fairclough
- 4. To confirm the 'notes' from the last meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**  
Cllr Pierce confirmed and Cllr Gorse seconded
- 5. Matters arising from those minutes:**  
AL/JP/JG/PA attended a Zoom meeting on 18/11/21 with Sue Pointon to discuss the community musical of Godspell  
PA chased Wrekin College as a venue for Lesley Smith on 5/11/21 – still not had a response.  
PA has seen Radoslava re Bulgarian Dancers on 4/11/21  
PA attended meeting with Sunnycroft on 16/11/21  
PA attended meeting with Dorota of the Polish community on 9/11/21  
PA and AL attended meeting on 15/11/21 with Heather and Mary of Welli Art/CTS to discuss details of Art Gallery  
PA completed a brief summary report for Cllr Lowe to present at Nov E&C  
PA emailed John Sweetland of the Belfrey to discuss options and they're to have a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (details below).  
PA emailed Wrekin Rowers and they have confirmed that the date is in their diary.  
PA to continue to try and contact Telford Steel Band – sent email 5/11/21.  
PA booked John Bailey Club for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.  
PA met with ToriArts (possibly for festival launch event) on 9/11/21  
PA added to Agenda to "criteria and timings for the various competitions and Art Gallery"  
PA met with Damian at The Orbit on 9/11/21 to discuss further ideas

## 6. **Update on festival performances/venues (PA)**

### Godspell

Discussions were had with Sue Pointon at a Zoom meeting on 18/11/21 regarding the production of the community musical Godspell. Production costs were discussed. A meeting was had on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov at All Saints (attended by AL) and the production has had significant further interest since then.

There would be no cost for the venue (seating capacity of around 150) and All Saints would organise the sale of refreshments. The possibility of livestreaming the production was discussed. Costs were agreed. It was agreed that any donations made on the night, would go back to the church.

**ACTION: PA to find out if we would be able to livestream the production and to let Sue Pointon know about supporting the costs.**

### Bulgarian Dancers

PA spoken with Radoslava re Bulgarian Dancers for Festival Launch event on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. A donation amount was agreed and also if they wanted to put a bucket out for additional donations.

**ACTION: PA to let Radsolava know the donation offered and also with regards to the bucket**

### Aardman Animations

Unfortunately, they have no one available to come and run the workshops on that day. *“Unfortunately we don’t have very much availability for events currently, as we are so busy on film productions at the moment and most of our model making crew are working in the studio.”*

### Sunnycroft

PA met with Lou Hall and they have agreed to act as a venue for Alison’s Bees talk on Friday at 6pm and also to have an open weekend, completely free of charge for Wellington residents. Suggestion was to put a “cut out” invite on the program. A discussion was also had with regards to refreshments, but to be reviewed nearer the time. It was also suggested that there would need to be some sort of “subject to availability” on the voucher in case of maximum capacity at the property.

### The Orbit

Polish Event: PA met with Damian and Dorota and they are happy with having a Polish film event on the Sunday night at The Orbit. Dorota to think about additional ideas to enhance this event e.g. samples of Polish food etc. A donation towards this event was agreed.

**ACTION: PA to let Dorota know regarding the donation for the Polish film night**

Friday Night at The Opera: Damian suggested that this was altered slightly - showing Phantom of the Opera instead. The Friday night would be the “red carpet event” but for those not wishing to dress up, it could be shown at the 2.30pm slot on Friday or Saturday. This was agreed. Additional costs were also agreed in order to enhance the event (and to keep the ticket prices affordable).

As agreed, the rest of the program for the festival weekend, was to be decided by The Orbit.

**ACTION: PA to confirm Phantom of the Opera with The Orbit and to let them know of the additional funding**

### The Belfrey

The AGM was on 22/11 and PA has put forward 2 suggestions, which have been agreed.

We hire the theatre for Wrekin Rowers evening (dependant on cost) and that The Belfrey host an Open Day, which would be promoted as part of the festival – including a ceramics trial/demo and the photography exhibition. The festival would put on 2 or 3 acts to perform on the stage throughout the day. (12 – 4pm suggested time)

**ACTION: PA to liaise with The Belfrey Theatre for both events**

### Wrekin College as a venue for Lesley Smith

Bernard replied (5/11) but needs to check the calendar, which he can't do until next week

**ACTION: PA to contact Wrekin College again**

### Tori Arts involvement

Victoria is more than happy to help at the festival launch event and also spoke about enhancing certain events, where possible. A donation was discussed. More details can be discussed at a later date.

### Alison's Bee Talk

Sunnycroft have offered to act as a venue for Alison's Bee talk.

Introductions between the 2 have been made, and a visit will be arranged to check suitability and discuss option.

### Wrekin Rowers

It was agreed that any bucket donations at the Wrekin Rowers event, would be donated to their charities.

### JD Magic

PA confirmed the request to book JD Magic, and it was decided to include his 15 minute act, in the Belfrey Theatre open day, as one of the acts. Costs were agreed.

**ACTION: PA to confirm with JD Magic for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

### Art Gallery at CTS

PA and AL met with Heather and Mary (Welli Art) and met Matthew from CTS.

Discussed possible options for the Art Gallery, including how residents would submit their work and the costs involved. Suggested theme by AL "Wellington – the Here and Now". JG suggested "Then and Now" and this was agreed. Costs were agreed and a discussion was had regarding the opening of the Art Gallery/festival on the Friday. PA to invite Sir Edward Tate and all our Councillors. Maximum number of 80 entries. If they wanted to sell their work, a commission would be given to WelliArt.

### Footprints project

Heather also suggested asking a few local artists and to come and host a footprints activity within the town where the children will have the outline of their footprint drawn in chalk and the end result is that we'll have a number of footprints leading into the Market Square. This was agreed and would also be a good way to promote the Festival Art Gallery. It was agreed to fund the cost of the chalk.

**ACTION: PA to confirm with Heather re: Footprints idea**

### Meet The Authors

Julie Phillips has started contacting new authors and will come back to us with a list in due course.

### Severn Harmony

Have confirmed but would like details of time and duration of their slot. It was decided to have a 6:30pm start and to ask for 30 – 40 mins.

**ACTION: PA to confirm Severn Harmony for a 6:30pm start on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

### Festival Book Club/Poems and Pints

John Bailey club has been booked for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – at no cost.

### Festival Fancy Dress Walk

PA spoke with Tony Nicholls and Anthony's of Wellington are happy to sponsor the event and assist on the day. Also a suggestion was made to contact Wrekin Road Runners – who may be able to assist with marshalling on the day. AL made initial contact with the WRR and has also spoken to someone about having a face painter during the 2 hour event. We will need First Aiders and it must be made clear, that attendees of this event, do so, at their own risk.

**ACTION: PA to contact Wrekin Road Runners and to confirm the face painter.**

### This Is Our Wellington

We are aiming for late March distribution – so we will need to have the brochure details sorted by early to mid-February 2022.

## 7. **Criteria for competitions and Art Gallery**

Art Gallery been discussed above.

### Resident Poet and Short Story competitions

PA has spoken with Amanda Jenkins (8/11/21), who is happy to contribute the £200 towards the prize. It has been agreed that there will be a total prize money of £500 for the Resident Poet and £100 for the Short Story. Both winning entries will feature in the next edition of This Is Our Wellington magazine.

The entries will be sent to the judges "blind". The theme for both was agreed as "*Wellington, Then and Now*". The deadline for entries was set at Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, so that we could announce the winners during the festival.

### Peggy Harrison Schools Poetry Competition

PA emailed Helen Donaghue and Sue Crampton on 5/11/21 and they are happy to be involved again. They would like to give the schools plenty of notice (Feb half term or before) and perhaps allow the competition to run just before or just after the festival. They feel it best to announce the winners in the individual schools with the Mayor to present prizes. Themes are to be discussed but looking at linking with the Queen's Jubilee.

It was suggested that the deadline for the poetry competition was 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with 9 overall winners getting a certificate and £20 prize money. The theme will be decided by Helen and Sue. It was also agreed that a certificate would be given to all entries.

**ACTION: PA to update Sue and Helen**

**8. Rebranding/new logo**

It was agreed to enlist an expert to come up with a new logo for the Wellington Festival. Costs were agreed and an initial discussion was had.

**ACTION: PA to arrange a new logo to be designed and options brought to the next meeting**

**9. Any other business**

Buckets

Where we have performers who are not charging us, or asking for a small donation, it was agreed that they could arrange their own bucket collection

Paperwork and Risk Assessments

A discussion as also had regarding the amount of extra paperwork that is now needed for events held in the public domain. To be reviewed.

**10. Date and time of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed to be held on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10:30am

This meeting began at 10:30am and was concluded at 12:44pm .

**ACTIONS:**

**ACTION: PA to find out if we would be able to livestream the production and to let Sue Pointon know about supporting the costs.**

**ACTION: PA to let Radsolava know the donation offered and also with regards to the bucket**

**ACTION: PA to let Dorota know regarding the donation for the Polish film night**

**ACTION: PA to confirm Phantom of the Opera with The Orbit and to let them know of the additional funding**

**ACTION: PA to liaise with The Belfrey Theatre for both events**

**ACTION: PA to contact Wrekin College again**

**ACTION: PA to confirm with JD Magic for Sunday 8th May**

**ACTION: PA to confirm with Heather re: Footprints idea**

**ACTION: PA to confirm Severn Harmony for a 6:30pm start on Sunday 8th May 2022**

**ACTION: PA to contact Wrekin Road Runners and to confirm the face painter**

**ACTION: PA to update Sue and Helen**

**ACTION: PA to arrange a new logo to be designed and options brought to the next meeting**