

Minutes of a meeting of the Princess Management Committee held on 26th September 2023 in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm

Present: Councillors S. Perry (Chair), P. Clayton, J. Flurry, R. Keen, C. Searing, B. Vickers

In attendance: K Noble (Town Clerk), J Hook (Theatre Manager), Councillor Gudka and three members of the public.

Public Participation: One member of the public spoke stating there were two problems at the theatre which is stopping people attending shows - the kickboards in seating area and the blocking up of the balcony. There is no fire escape for people at the back of the theatre.

49.0.M23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker and Warren.

50.0.M23 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda

There were no declarations of interests.

51.0.M23 To receive and approve the minutes of the Princess Management meeting held on 1st August 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Princess Management Committee, held on 1st August 2023, were presented by the Chair.

Resolved that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

52.0.M23 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

53.0.M23 To receive the Chairs report

The Chair welcomed Julie Hook who had joined the Council as the Theatre Manager. Julie has a wealth of experience in working for Council run theatres and has already started streamlining processes.

Fay Hicks also started last week as the Marketing and Promotions Officer and has begun to raise the profile of the theatre on social media.

A new brochure has been produced and there are a variety of events scheduled up to the end of the year.



54.0.M23 To receive the Princess update report

Comments were made as to whether the old films should be shown in the summer, if at all. Tribute acts should be looked at, as one was cancelled last month due to low ticket sales.

Some queries were answered regarding the upcoming events/shows.

The Chair added that two shows took place at the weekend, the Fleetwood Mac Songbook, which was extremely well attended and there was a late surge in sales for the Patsy Cline show.

55.0.M23 To note the most recent committee income and expenditure report

The report was noted and no concerns raised.

56.0.M23 To receive update on the implementation of the Theatre review recommendations

The first stage has been completed. The Chair thanked the staff for their work during the difficult few months.

Officers will be reviewing the further recommendations and updates will be given at future meetings.

57.0.M23 To consider request from 1st Burnham on Sea Scouts Group for the donation of a raffle prize

There were concerns about public money being spent, as more requests could be received.

Resolved that the Committee does support the Sea Scouts Group, but do not feel it possible to donate a prize. Councillors will donate prizes personally.

58.0.M23 To consider funding request from the Bluebirds Theatre Company to continue providing the Thriving Voices and Baby Bluebirds workshops

The Chair provided an overview of the request and some background information.

A lengthy discussion took place and some concerns were raised regarding allocating all the budget to one group.

It was agreed the item should be deferred until the next meeting so further information relating to the service provided at the Theatre can be obtained.

59.0.M23 To consider options for Café lease which expires in May 2024

Three options were considered. Several comments were made in favour of extending the lease including, the first year Hellends Kitchen took over



**Burnham-on-Sea
& Highbridge**

TOWN COUNCIL

was affected by covid, the Café area has been refurbished, the service provided is very professional and good quality food and drink are served.

The Theatre Manager stated that she had undertaken an extensive study into running a bar in house in a similar size venue and it was not viable due to staffing costs and would also be very difficult to manage.

The Clerk confirmed legal advice would be sought to confirm if the lease is extended or a new 1 year lease has to be produced.

Resolved that Hellends Kitchens lease is extended for 1 year, subject to amendments to the terms being agreed, inline with the review recommendations, which is delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Theatre Manager and Committee to approve.

60.0.M23 To consider accepting Tesco's offer for a defibrillator to be donated to be installed on the Princess Theatre building

All Councillors felt this was an essential piece of equipment for the town.

Resolved that the Committee gratefully accepts the donated defibrillator. Any additional costs required for the installation are to be met from the Princess maintenance budget. Ongoing costs to be referred to the Finance and Resources Committee to allocate.

61.0.M23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 21st November 2023 at 7 pm.