



**Management Committee Meeting  
Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
Kings Arms in Shepton Mallet**

**PRESENT**

Zena Pollard, Rob Gilderthorp, Guy Braga, Alan Stone, Janet Kinison, Mike Perry,  
Margaret Robinson, Lorraine Pratten, Peter Wild, Claire Sully

**APOLOGIES**

Dave Brown, Chris Inchley, Sonia Pike, Paul Hooper, Jo Christoforides, Ian Jarman

Peter Wild and Claire Sully attended the first part of the meeting to tell us about the Digital Arts Festival planned for October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> this year with bigger a follow up event next year. There will be an event on the Friday and Saturday and BAPA will be taking their reading two days so that we have the theatre to use.

Peter introduced himself as a retired drama teacher from the Blue School in Wells and said that he had been invited to be part of a group putting on the festival after he became involved with the Academy Theatre, the newly formed charity which NOT part of BAPA, but an entirely independent organisation.

From the week beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a website, with a wonderful digital sheep, describing what we are doing. Posters and flyers are in the process of being created.

Peter is to have meetings with various teachers at schools and primary heads with the intention that from September they can work on producing pieces for the festival, which will include all forms of digital art – films, music, photos, websites etc – anything that can be digitised. The publicity has already started and the process of narrowing down the categories has begun.

Theme will be one of finding what is hidden. Edgar Right is one of Peter's ex pupils and has agreed to be one of the judges.

Claire has come into contact with someone who works with the One Show and lives in Shepton and Duncan Powell (in Holby City at the moment) is another ex pupil of Peter's. (His degree was in media arts – he's made shorts etc There are quite a lot of local people who are successful in the field. Part of the intention is to develop the notion of a vast array of skills in Shepton and the surrounding area.

Peter has made contact with the historical association as he particularly wants to involve older people.

This is a two year project. First year, low key and local; next year more involvement with people from outside the area.

At the moment, there is some funding to look after marketing, the website etc. Needed is the following:



- Equipment to enable people to make digital artwork.
- Development of skills and taking advantage of existing skills. Learning how to light, shoot, create a storyboard, etc.
- Equipment for presentation. We are aiming to have lots of systems round – maybe via point of display screens around the towns and in the villages, using the web to distribute the content. Or put it on the exteriors of buildings around Shepton.
- £1000 – £1500 would buy six half days for local people training.
- The festival needs to purchase video cameras, computer and software.

Does S21 want to support it?

#### **GENERAL ACADEMY ACTIVITIES**

In the process of firming up the Film Society – screen etc. There is also the intention to have dances weekly and a once a month live music.

The University of the Third Age is something else being investigated.

The Academy a visit from the RAF who want to do a presentation about the RAF in the Academy. They send out lots of invitations, and ‘we’ are welcome to send a list of invitees – good opportunity to market Shepton and the Academy. Sept 22nd. Good time to get people to a meeting.

ZP mentioned SHOP – Shepton Older People - at the Town Council meeting. People were talking about what was happening for older people in Shepton. Peter said he’d been thinking about organising an older people’s forum.

Other ideas are a ‘Goldies’ group, and an opera society

The lift has had some work done to it, but need to think again about how to come up with a complete solution.

#### **SHEPTON 21 FINANCES (*SPREADSHEET TO BE APPENDED WHEN AVAILABLE*)**

Rob reported that there is not much money to come in apart from some grants for the websites and some Facelift money – around £5000 in all. Apart from that, funds are down and need replenishing urgently. MP is investigating.

Guy Braga made the point that the potential to get funding just for the organisation are very slim, and the best route is to look for projects.

There is 106 money still from Tesco and Dobbies, and both funds are about regeneration, for which it is perfectly legitimate to include monies for administration. (Dobbies is about less tangible things than Tesco which is more structural.)

We can then also go for match funding. There is a tourism budget of sorts



Guy suggested we look at the different people on the Market Towns Forum, and ask what they have been doing to come up with themes. We have some themes already – slow food, food etc.

He also felt that it was perfectly legitimate to market the town, a project with an ongoing benefit.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

ARO money. Speak to Ros. MP to arrange. There are no automatic awards, and they will be going through all the applications again

£900 is included for signs pointing to the Academy in 106 money. £2000 for the plaques – these to be put up as soon as possible.

MP reported that he and DB had walked some of the Fosse Way to identify walks and were intending to label the posts to enable visitors to follow them easily.

CHATs group has started up again.

MP to contact Matt Dury re the music evenings for teens. We are waiting on the Town Council meeting for funding for this and a consequent decision.

GB suggested we look at the possibility of joint purchasing for businesses in town – stationary, electricity. MP to investigate and put out on STAG.

MP to follow up on a permanent licence for the shopping centre.

#### **FACELIFT**

Facelift is designed to make the buildings in the centre look better. The Boots application does not. To be referred back to Paul Tomlinson for further discussion with the applicant..

#### **LINKS**

Now agreed in principle that it will go across the car park. Will be passed down to the car parks manager who will advise on health and safety.

Good progress on the Wells to Shepton link but fairly sensitive discussions going on with land owners.

#### **MILESTONES**

Good progress. Three now restored after a helpful decision from County. They will also let us use their database to identify times when traffic lights will be in place on dangerous sites. David Clarke in Mendip has an interest, and possibly some finances. May be interested in restoring springs and wells. ZP may be able to get some helpers and a small grant for the latter.

#### **TOWN SIGNAGE**

MP and IJ did a photographic tour of the signs affecting walkers and will do a survey of vehicle signs soon. Photographs on the web awaiting comments

Guy has asked for £10,000 to be ring fenced for a town centre urban design study – lighting, signage and our study will feed into that. In the brief they must consult S21, Chamber, Kevin, Dave Clarke, etc. They will advise on a complete ‘palette’ for Shepton



**LIAISON WITH TOWN COUNCIL**

The meeting went well but was rather a case of us reporting our activities. It was felt that CI had more liaison in mind. MP to ask him what he intended.

**TIC**

Lorraine may have found her £5k shortfall. She is preparing a calendar for town, with 12 businesses at £300, which will make £5,100 if they all sell.

**CREMATORIUM**

There is a groundswell of opinion against the crematorium. The planning meeting is in June.

**GUY BRAGA'S 'RETIREMENT'**

It's been an absolute pleasure to work with him, and we will miss him. Thank you Guy!

**AGM**

Date to be arranged.