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Minutes of a meeting of
the Arts, Culture and Events Committee
Held on Thursday 8th January 2026
at School Green Centre commencing at 19.30

Present: Cllrs Bowler, Jahromi and Matic (Chair)

Attending: B Winton (Clerk)
Cllr Rance

26/ACE/01

Public Questions

- 1.1 There were no public questions.

26/ACE/02

Apologies and declarations of Members' Interest

- 2.1 Approval of apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Cllr James, Montgomery & Peer
- 2.2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of members' interests.

26/ACE/03

Minutes of the previous meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the committee meeting of 30th October 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed as such by Cllr Matic.

Proposed: Cllr Bowler
Seconded: Cllr Jahromi
Approved: Unanimously

ZM 
6/3/26

3.2 Actions and Matters Arising

- 25/ACE/51.3 Clerk to arrange a meeting with WBC and Chair of ACE
- It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with WBC officers and the Chair of ACE to discuss collaborative working on events for 2026.
- ACTION – Clerk to arrange a meeting with WBC officers and the Chair of ACE to discuss collaborative working on events for 2026**
- 25/ACE/61.2 Cllr Matic to provide contact details for a member of the public at Frensham Green who may be able to help with leafleting and engagement in that part of the parish
- This had been arranged by WBC and had helped with the attendance at the event.
- 25/ACE/61.3 Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Art Exhibition Working Party
- This had not been arranged.
- 25/ACE/67.1 Clerk to add rationalisation of Working Parties to the agenda of Finance and General Purposes meeting
- This will be on the agenda for the February F&GP meeting
- 25/ACE/72.2 Clerk to arrange an Arts Exhibition working party meeting in November
- Covered at 25/ACE/61.3 above.
- 25/ACE/72.4 Clerk to arrange the event on Frensham Green on 12th December
- This had been done.
- 25/ACE/74.2 Clerk to follow up potential partnership opportunities for screenings in the cinema
- These were still being followed up.
- 25/ACE/78.1 Clerk to prepare draft terms of reference for the Engagement Working Party
- See Item 11 on the agenda

26/ACE/4

Developing Arts & Culture in the parish

4.1

Update for the Art Exhibition 2026

The Clerk provided an update on arrangements for the 2026 Art Exhibition. The applications process was now open. The event will be run along very similar lines to last year. The main changes were that charging would be per panel and applications were being accepted for other formats such as ceramics. The former helps planning the layout and the latter is due to interest from artists. Over 40 have already signed up and once the text for the annual newsletter is agreed early next week attention will turn to the publicising of the event.

We also have interest from artists for talks/events during the week leading up to the show.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Arts Exhibition working party

26/ACE/5

Community Outreach

5.1

A verbal report on Remembrance Sunday 2025

The arrangements went well for 2025 event and no immediate major items to be addressed. One item for consideration might be to put temporary signs up along Hyde End Road to ask drivers to go past the service slowly. The Deputy Clerk was leading on an initiative for crocheted poppies along the fence line on School Green.

5.2

A verbal report on Christmas events in the parish and whether to extend to include Grazeley for 2026

The School Green Centre event on Friday 5th December 2025 had to be brought indoors due to the adverse weather conditions but actually worked well as an event using the big screen to show the lyrics to the songs being sung. There was however an obvious disconnect with the actual switching on of the lights on the tree.

Plan for 2026 would be to plan the Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree element outdoors for consistency with other locations but supplement this with a Christmas Fayre in the School Green Centre which does help draw attendees.

Frensham Green worked well in partnership with WBC and would recommend that we repeat in 2026. The Reading Lions attendance helped with numbers, and it would be good to see if we could get Santa to make an appearance at the other event locations as well.

The Shinfield Players were very easy to work with and have agreed in principle to work with SPC again for 2026.

The Clerk also recommended that we run a third iteration of the Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree event at Grazeley Village Memorial Hall (especially

as SPC funds their Christmas tree). The Chair of the GVMH has indicated that they would be happy to work with us on such a basis. Date would need to be identified. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue the potential for a Grazeley event.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange to run three versions of the Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree (at School Green, Frensham Green and Grazeley Village Memorial Hall)

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a Fair at School Green Centre to run in conjunction with the School Green event

5.3 A report delivered at School Green centre

The Clerk provided an update on some of the activities currently being held in the School Green Centre:

Rainbow tots – This has moved from the Community Church but was proving sustainable at School Green Centre including drawing some additional business to café.

Community Coffee Morning – Transferred across from Community Church for the time being

Share Shinfield – Moved here from Community Church while they were undergoing refurbishment and has gone very well for all concerned

Link Visiting now using cinema on a quarterly basis. They pay for film licence and room and also food from the café

Members **noted** the report and thanked Sarah Bell and the Customer Care Team for their efforts to accommodate the above.

26/ACE/6

Public Art

6.1 Update from the Public Art Working

The closing date for applications was Friday 23rd January 2026.

The Clerk advised that the Business Breakfast had been cancelled and would be replaced with an evening event to be scheduled for the spring.

26/ACE/7

Shinfield Cinema

7.1 Update regarding National Theatre Live

There was a good level of interest in the various National Theatre Live screenings held to date.

Relaxed performances (held on Sundays) had now been introduced and were well received.

Christmas screening for the Youth Club had been popular as had that for the Snowman.

7.2 Updated on other potential screening partners

The Clerk advised that he was almost ready to submit the application to Exhibitions on Screen but had no response from:

- Royal Ballet and Opera (which covers Royal Opera House) which does show productions in cinemas but does not publish details of how to join their scheme
- Metropolitan Opera House through their UK distributor offers a wide variety of types of screening including music concerts etc.
- Royal Shakespeare Company offers a digital screening service but nothing to cinemas

ACTION – Clerk to follow up potential partnership with Exhibitions on Screen

26/ACE/8

Annual Parish Meeting

8.1 It was agreed that the following elements would be included in the Annual Parish Meeting:

- 1 – Chairman's Report with more weight on future activity rather than the past.
- 2 – Community Awards (With categories for Adult, Young Person, Charity/Organisation, Business, community initiative; allotments from 2027)
- 3 – Guest Speaker of some form with the Chair suggesting a comedian (The Clerk was aware of a potential option).

ACTION – Clerk to add to agenda for January Full Council

ACTION – Clerk to arrange speaker if approach approved by Full Council

26/ACE/9

Budget Reporting

- 9.1 The budget report for ACE committee had been included with the papers.
Members **noted** the report.

26/ACE/10

Engagement Working Party

- 10.1 Draft terms of reference for the Engagement Working Party

This had not yet been done. The Clerk suggested that this be deferred until Full Council had decided on the proposal to recruit a Community Engagement & Events Officer as the role profile for that would be very closely related to any terms of reference.

ACTION – Clerk to report back on terms of Reference for Engagement Working Party at March committee meeting

26/ACE/11

Correspondence

- 11.1 Earlier in the week there had been some correspondence where the organisers of the Shinfield 10k road race were becoming concerned that uncertainty over the works to the plaza next to School Green Centre and the impact that may have on the start/finish of the race. It had now been confirmed that the developers had agreed to avoid the date of the event which will proceed as planned.
- 11.2 The Clerk advised that there would be an initial discussion with Wokingham Borough Council regarding a potential book festival in the parish.

ACTION – Clerk to report back to the March committee meeting regarding a potential book festival

26/ACE/12

Membership of Committee

- 12.1 Cllr Rance indicated she would like to join the committee, and the Clerk would include her on the membership for future meetings.

26/ACE/13

Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1 The next meeting of the Art, Culture and Event Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 5th March at 19.30

Meeting closed at 20.35

List of Actions

26/ACE/3.2		
25/ACE/51.3	Clerk to arrange a meeting with WBC officers and the Chair of ACE to discuss collaborative working on events for 2026	Clerk
26/ACE/4.1	Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Arts Exhibition working party	Clerk
26/ACE/5.2	Clerk to arrange to run three versions of the Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree (at School Green, Frensham Green and Grazeley Village Memorial Hall)	Clerk
	Clerk to arrange a Fair at School Green Centre to run in conjunction with the School Green event	Clerk
26/ACE/7.2	Clerk to follow up potential partnership with Exhibitions on Screen	Clerk
26/ACE/8.1	Annual Parish Meeting	
	Clerk to add to agenda for January Full Council a request to have a speaker at the meeting	Clerk
	Clerk to arrange speaker if approach approved by Full Council	Clerk
26/ACE/10.1	Clerk to report back on terms of Reference for Engagement Working Party at March committee meeting	Clerk
26/ACE/11.2	Clerk to report back to the March committee meeting regarding a potential book festival	Clerk

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