

Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee - 5 August 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee** held on **5 August 2003** when there were present:

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr C R Morgan

OFFICERS PRESENT

C Thomas

M Martin

Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Manager
Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

C Bowler

C J Products

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

On a Motion moved by Cllr C R Morgan and seconded by Cllr C J Lumley, it was agreed that Cllr R A Amner be appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the subject of this Sub-Committee by virtue of a relation who had suffered during the Holocaust in the Second World War.

Cllr R A Amner also declared a personal interest by virtue of being a friend of Mr Bowler, a local fabricator.

3 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Chairman thanked Mr Bowler for his attendance at the meeting in order to provide technical information.

During debate, Members noted that:-

- in order for a design to be available for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2004, the fabrication would need to commence no later than the beginning of November. Mr Bowler provided Members with some suggested sketches, together with technical details.
- C J Products would be donating the materials, less the galvanising and dry powder process, and time.
- because of the tight timescale, coinciding with the commencement of the new school year, it would not be appropriate to target schools in particular with the competition to find suitable designs for the memorial.

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- the memorial would measure between 1.2 metres and 1.5 metres high and be erected on a plinth measuring approximately 600 m high.
- unless donations were received there would be costs for a suitable plinth, together with the cost of painting, galvanising and providing a dry powder covering for the memorial.

Members agreed that it was essential that the project was seen to include the commemoration of other conflicts beyond that of the Second World War.

The Emergency Planning & Health & Safety Manager read out a quotation from the Holocaust Memorial Day organisation, as follows:

"By supporting Holocaust Memorial Day we show a continuing commitment to oppose racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and discrimination on the grounds of disability, religion or gender.

The Day acts as a reminder to all of us of our responsibility to protect the civil and human rights of all people in our society and as part of the international community. Events since the Holocaust - such as the genocide committed in Rwanda and Bosnia - show that we still have much to learn."

Due to the limited time available, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee agreed that, as Chairman of the Council, he should support this as a Chairman's project, to be publicised in the local press and on BBC Essex. The competition would be publicised as soon as reasonably possible with a closing date of 12 September.

Members of the Sub-Committee requested that details of the press release be forwarded to them for information.

Recommended to the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- (1) That an art project to commemorate the Holocaust and other conflicts be commissioned, consisting of a four sided metal memorial, to be sited in the vicinity of the Mill Hall, Rayleigh.
- (2) That the winning designs, as chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee, be endorsed.
- (3) That the Policy & Finance Committee be requested to agree that appropriate funding be met through virements from existing budgets. (CE)

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4 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the Sub-Committee would meet again on Tuesday 16 September at 10 am to determine the winning designs.

The meeting commenced at 10 am and closed at 11.05 am.

Chairman

Date

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee** held on **16 September 2003** when there were present:

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C J Lumley

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C R Morgan

OFFICERS PRESENT

C Thomas
M Martin

Emergency Planning & Health & Safety Manager
Committee Administrator

5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMPETITION

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive, which had advised Members of the outcome of a competition seeking design entries for a permanent memorial for the Holocaust and other civil atrocities since the Second World War.

Members noted that:-

- although an article in the Evening Echo had publicised the competition and contact had also been made with BBC Essex to broaden the output, only one entry had been received.
- a financial donation in respect of the memorial seemed likely from the Jewish Community, and together with other promises of funding, should ensure that the only cost that may fall to the Council would be for proposed inscription work on the plinth.
- in order that there could be more designs to choose from, the Arts Development Officer had been asked to investigate whether local schools could be invited to undertake this as a design project.

During debate, Members agreed that:-

- the brief for the design project should be as follows "to design panels from which 3 or 4 will be chosen for a Holocaust Memorial, within

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construction criteria, that can commemorate conflicts around the world, and the atrocities conducted between peoples."

- one side of the work should bear reference to the Holocaust atrocities of the Second World War as a point of origin for the Memorial; it was felt appropriate that the panel should include a dove of peace and the Star of David.
- the Memorial should be erected in a prominent position.
- the inscription on the base should be simple and all-embracing; Members to give consideration to this in readiness for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, when final designs would be selected.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were conscious that, in order to meet the time required for fabricating the Memorial by Holocaust Day 2004, it was important to conclude matters by mid October.

Members therefore agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held on Monday 13 October 2003, commencing at 10 am at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh, to which the fabricator be invited.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am

Chairman

Date

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee** held on **13 October 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr R A Amner (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C J Lumley

OFFICERS PRESENT

C A F Thomas - Emergency Planning & Health & Safety Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

C Bowler - C J Products

8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMPETITION

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive updating Members on the competition seeking design entries for a permanent memorial for the Holocaust.

Members expressed concern that no contact had been made with the local schools with respect to designing a memorial.

During debate, Members identified ideas that could be incorporated into a design for the memorial, including:-

- doves of peace on one panel, with the other 3 panels depicting all the different worldwide religious symbols
- setting the different worldwide religious symbols in concrete on the base of the memorial
- religious symbols cast in metal then set in stones to be strewn around the base of the memorial.

It was, however, noted that a local architect had written expressing interest in the project and offering design services at a nominal fee that could be donated to the Council's nominated charity. He had subsequently submitted an alternative design for the memorial, copies of which were distributed to Members at the meeting.

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Members were favourably impressed by the design, although a concern was raised that some explanation of the symbolism of the design would be required, should the design be approved. Members were also concerned that oak proposed for the design would, in time, be subject to shrinkage and rotting and, as such, felt that the possibilities of using alternative materials such as, for example, RSJs, should be explored.

It was further noted that the design was on a much larger scale than the original specification, being approximately 6 feet in height and width and 3 feet in depth. There would be merit in the Sub-Committee going on a site visit to the Mill to assess whether there was a suitable location for a memorial on this scale.

It was the general consensus of the Sub-Committee that it was important to aim for the memorial to be completed in time for National Holocaust Day on 27 January 2004. If this, however, proved difficult to achieve, the project should be completed before the end of the municipal year. It was noted that a letter should be sent to the District's churches with an invitation to attend the unveiling ceremony.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Cllr C J Lumley it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the local architect's offer of design services should be accepted and that the Sub-Committee should visit the architect as soon as possible.
- (2) That there should be a site visit immediately after this meeting to the Mill to determine a suitable location for the memorial. (CE)

The meeting closed at 11.07 am.

Chairman

Date

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Holocaust Memorial Sub-Committee** held on **14 November 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr R A Amner (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr C R Morgan

OFFICERS PRESENT

C Thomas

H Collins

M Martin

Emergency Planning & Health & Safety Manager

Civic & Public Relations Officer

Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

M O'Neill

Mark O'Neill Architects

10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, which updated Members on the progress made to commission a Holocaust Memorial.

Members noted that:-

- the Sub-Committee's endorsement of the project was required in order to make appropriate recommendations to the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- projected costs could be significantly lower, once offers of sponsorship had been taken into account.
- heightened public awareness of the Holocaust and other conflicts had been evident over recent years, and demonstrated particularly by the large numbers attending the District's recent Remembrance Day service.
- the nation should respect the Holocaust Memorial Day.

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- the memorial should invite viewers to reflect on as well as remember the atrocities and not be seen as either "faith or event specific".

Members were disappointed that a recent article in the Evening Echo had not emphasised the fact that the proposed memorial would honour those who had lost their lives through various conflicts, including the Second World War. They hoped that a further article be published including a colour picture.

Members noted that the Town/Parish Councils had been invited to make a financial contribution in support of this project. Of the responses received to date; Hullbridge had pledged £50; Rawreth were considering making a small contribution; Ashingdon, Hawkwell, and Stambridge Parish Councils had declined to make a contribution and Great Wakering, Rayleigh and Rochford Town/Parish Councils had reported they would be considering the matter further.

Mr O'Neill outlined the project in more detail and Members viewed further design pictures. The Sub-Committee were unanimous in their support of this project and of its siting at the Mill Hall, Rayleigh. Members requested that the existing flowerbed should display roses.

Mr O'Neill further reported that:-

- two written communications had been received; one from a local company stating that they would be prepared to supply and fit granite work for the Memorial at not cost to the Council and another from a company offering to donate the oak required for the Memorial.
- a verbal confirmation that the Jewish British Board of Deputies would be willing to offer their support.
- pledges of support from other companies who would be willing to contribute in the even of a shortfall in amount required.
- a short visual computer presentation providing photographic images, music and text could be displayed within the Mill Hall to complement the Memorial. This was subsequently demonstrated to Members of the Sub-Committee and would be made available to show to Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 25 November 2003.
- the existing plaque would be incorporated within the design.
- he would provide further information concerning costs, sponsorship or other pledges of support.

Members were in agreement that the date of the erection of the memorial should be displayed, together with the details of the Chairman of the Council, who had conceived the project.

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Recommended to the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- (1) That the project for a Holocaust Memorial be supported.
- (2) That any residual cost of the proposed design be determined taking account of the 'in principle' and actual sponsorship indicated in the report and that further sponsorship be sought from interested parties.
- (3) That the identified site at The Mill, Rayleigh, be confirmed, subject to the project b

The meeting commenced at 11 am closed at 11.46 pm.

Chairman

Date