

Subject:	Items referred from the Council meeting held on the 30 January 2020		
	Mary Clarke Statue – Notice of Motion		
Date of Meeting:	13 February 2020		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following Notice of Motion which was debated at and referred from the full Council meeting held on the 30 January 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the motion concerning the Mary Clarke Statue either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter as requested, which may give consideration to a range of options.

3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mary Clarke Statue, Notice of Motion

- 3.1 To receive the following extract from the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 30 January 2020 setting out the motion and recommendation for the committee to consider as detailed below:

(3) Mary Clarke Statue

This council is honoured to have granted £10,000 to the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal - to provide a bronze maquette (model) of the eventual statue - and recognises the historical importance of this memorial statue and its social and educational potential as a symbol of democracy, equality and women's rights and should therefore continue to actively support and publicise this initiative.

This council requests the Chair of the TECC Committee ensures that officers bring a report to the next meeting of the committee that details ways in which the council, working across its departments and in liaison with the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal, can promote public awareness and help raise the remaining £60,000 required to fund the statue.

Supporting Information:

Mary Jane Goulden, later Mary Clarke, was born in 1862 in Salford. She ran a shop with her sister Emmeline Pankhurst, was a co-founder of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and became Organiser for Brighton from 1909 to 1910.

Mary had escaped a deeply unhappy nine-year marriage to John Clarke, during which she experienced abuse, destitution and homelessness. Thereafter she dedicated her life to the struggle for women's suffrage and was deeply committed to the cause. Mary was imprisoned three times for minor offences and led at least one delegation to Parliament in January 1909, which led to her arrest and imprisonment.

During her time as WSPU organiser in Brighton Mary lodged with Minnie Turner in her boarding house 'Sea View' at 13 Victoria Road. From this address and the WSPU office at the Quadrant near Brighton's Clock Tower, she helped build the WSPU operation in the South East of England and in 1910 ran the General Election campaign.

Mary attended the notorious 'Black Friday' events on 18th November 1910, where, over a period of six hours, 300 women outside Parliament were brutally beaten and deliberately sexually assaulted by uniformed and plain-clothed police. She was arrested for breaking a window and imprisoned in Holloway Prison for one month. Despite her frailty, Mary went on hunger strike and was forcibly fed. Two days after release from prison, on Christmas Day 1910, she collapsed and died of a brain haemorrhage.

Mary's death never received the publicity of Emily Wilding Davison's violent end under the Kings' horse on Derby Day 2013. Nonetheless, her grief-stricken sister Emmeline understood the political significance of her death. She wrote to C.P. Scott of the woman she called her "Dearest Sister" and said "She is the first to die. How many must follow before the men of your Party realise their responsibility."

3.2 The extract relating to the motion above from the full Council meeting is detailed below:

COUNCIL

4.30pm 30 JANUARY 2020

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Appich, Atkinson, Bagaeeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Henry, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Littman, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, Wares, West, Wilkinson, Williams and Yates.

PART ONE

72. NOTICES OF MOTION

(3) MARY CLARKE STATUE

- 72.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Janio as an Independent Member. Councillor Janio noted that a local charity had been seeking support and funding to enable the provision of a statue to mark the work of Mary Clarke, who was one of the first suffragettes to die in seeking to gain the vote for women. The charity had sought to work with the council, but progress had been slow, and he hoped that approval of the motion would show the council's support and enable the project to move forward.
- 72.2 Councillor Grimshaw formally seconded the motion and stated that she was pleased to be able to confirm the Labour Group's support for the motion. She hoped that officers would be able to work with the Charity to progress matters and enable the recognition of the contribution made by Mary Clarke to the cause to be made.
- 72.3 Councillors Deane and Robins spoke on the motion and expressed their support for the provision of a statue for Mary Clarke.
- 72.4 Councillor Janio thanked colleagues for their comments and the support for the aims of the motion, which he hoped would be approved.
- 72.5 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

This council is honoured to have granted £10,000 to the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal - to provide a bronze maquette (model) of the eventual statue - and recognises the historical importance of this memorial statue and its social and educational potential as a symbol of democracy, equality and women's rights and should therefore continue to actively support and publicise this initiative.

This council requests the Chair of the TECC Committee ensures that officers bring a report to the next meeting of the committee that details ways in which the council, working across its departments and in liaison with the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal, can promote public awareness and help raise the remaining £60,000 required to fund the statue.

- 72.6 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried unanimously.

