

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 2025** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

PRESENT Councillors M Ryan (Chairperson) Presiding
A Ineson (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors J Bradford M Joyce
R Buscombe C Parker
L Cooke P Parker
C Davieson L Wood
A Hall

In attendance: Natalie Hicks - Events Co-ordinator
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

E14. APOLOGIES

All members of the Committee were present.

E15. INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

None.

E16. MINUTES

The minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on the 25th September 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

Cllr J Bradford abstained from voting.

E17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E18. EVENTS UPDATE

The Events Co-ordinator provided a report on the Christmas 2024 events, noting that adverse weather conditions had impacted both the Christmas Lights Switch-On and the Doggy Carol Service which were both cancelled.

The Victorian Evening proceeded as planned despite the wet weather and the number of stalls remained consistent with previous years. However, a road traffic accident on Ashburton Road affected visitor numbers. Father Christmas was relocated to the Clock Tower Fireside Selfie to welcome visitors out of the rain. The street food traders reported takings were down on previous years. Members asked how much the raffle raised for the Mayor's Charity.

Members discussed the future of Victorian Evening and agreed to consider options to refresh the event. The Events Co-ordinator reported she is meeting with a representative of the District Councils Estates team in March to discuss future

Chair initials.....

events and will report back at the next meeting. A meeting is also being arranged with the Christmas Lights contractor and will be reported back to the next meeting.

The Events Co-ordinator reported the Lantern Parade had been a great success, local schools are always very keen to be involved.

Despite being affected by heavy rain, the Mayor's Carol Service was scaled back accordingly, attendance was poor.

Cllr P Parker joined the meeting at 19:25.

Members expressed their thanks to Newton Abbot Community Shed for their outstanding craftsmanship constructing a life-sized sleigh for Father Christmas.

Members also expressed their thanks to Mr & Mrs Christmas for their outstanding contribution to the community.

The Events Co-ordinator reported on progress of the 2025 events so far:

The Easter event on Saturday 19th April 2025 will include creative crafts, walk about artists and a chocolate egg giveaway to the children.

The Events Co-ordinator reported on an opportunity to trial new music events at Newton's Place. The first event would be funded using the remaining 2024 budget, serving both to showcase Newton's Place and to provide a platform for local talent.

To minimize initial expenditure, events would be ticketed. A twenty-one-piece sea shanty group, *The Old Time Sailors*, has confirmed availability in April 2025 to launch the new music series.

Members expressed enthusiasm for the initiative and discussed various music genres and refreshments that could be offered. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED That the Events Co-ordinator proceeds with the establishment of music events at Newton's Place, commencing with a performance by the sea shanty group *The Old Time Sailors* in April 2025.

The Events Co-ordinator advised that the Town Crier, Mr Nigel Kennison had attended Widecombe Fair in September, winning the Tom Cobbly Town Crier Cup. Members extended their congratulations to the Town Crier.

The Events Co-ordinator reported she had met with a representative of Newton Abbot Royal British Legion (RBL) to discuss events in 2025. The RBL confirmed their support with VE Day 80, VJ Day 80, Armistice Day and Decoration Day.

Members noted the list of proposed events for 2025, as circulated prior to the meeting.

E19. BAND CONCERTS 2025

The Band Concert Working Group is due to meet on Tuesday 4th February to consider alternative music provision and will report back to the next meeting.

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Members noted the list of Band Concerts to date, as circulated prior to the meeting.

E20. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Events Co-ordinator referred to the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024 for the Events Sub-Committee, previously circulated. Members were informed there are some outstanding payments relating to Christmas to be paid and reminded that the budget for 2025/26 has been increased to reflect the additional town centre events.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024 for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby noted and accepted.

E21. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting and advised the next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee would be held on Wednesday 9th April 2025.

Meeting closed at 19:49 hrs.

Chairperson.....Date.....

Chair initials.....