

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors Mrs C Bunday (Chairman) Presiding
Mrs K Crout (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Davieson M Joyce (Dep Mayor)
R Hayes C Parker
M Hocking M Ryan
C Jenks Mrs L Sheffield
Mrs A Jones

In attendance: Natalie Hicks– Events Co-ordinator
Alexandra Robinson - Committee Administrator

E18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Brian Hayes, David Howe and Richard Jenks (Mayor) and Sally Henley, Town Development Manager

E19. INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Councillors Mrs C Bunday, Mrs K Crout, R Hayes, M Hocking, Mrs A Jones, C Parker and M Ryan gave notice of their intention to declare personal interests in Minute E22, Newton Abbot Carnival 2019.

E20. MINUTES

The minutes of the Events Sub–Committee meeting held on 12th June 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

E21. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E22. NEWTON ABBOT CARNIVAL 2019

The Chairman of the Carnival Committee, Councillor Mike Ryan gave an update to the Sub-Committee on the 2019 Carnival. Councillor Ryan reported that the Carnival season had now finished. The Newton Abbot float had attended all but two carnivals in the South Devon circuit, those being due to bad weather. He was pleased to report that the Carnival Collection had raised even more this year and he invited everyone to the AGM and Presentation evening on 21st October 2019 where upon a cheque for £1000 would be presented to the Devon Air Ambulance Night-time Landing Sites Fund for Newton Abbot.

Councillor Ryan noted that all the events during the Carnival week were successful and he thanked everyone involved in the preparation and assisting throughout the week and particularly to those who attended the carnivals on the summer circuit. Councillor Ryan noted the efforts of Mrs Catherine Stocker who had promoted the carnival through social media and Councillor Mrs Ann Jones for providing the Carnival Queen and attendants with beautiful dresses for which they were awarded several prizes. Councillor Ryan thanked the office staff, the Council Handyman and Councillor Parker as accountant for the committee. He noted that they all put in a tremendous amount of work and effort and it was appreciated.

The Chairman, as Vice Chairman of the Carnival Committee Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday added her sincere thanks to the office staff and everyone involved in making Newton Abbot Carnival such a success this year.

Councillors suggested alternative events to contribute to Carnival Week and the Chairman of the Carnival Committee, Councillor Mike Ryan noted them and reiterated his invitation to the meeting on 21st October where the matters could be considered in more detail.

Councillor Ryan expressed his concern at the diminishing support for carnivals among towns across the region and he proposed to raise the matter at the meeting of the South Devon Carnival Circuit on 14th October 2019.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Carnival Committee and all those involved in the preparations for this year's Carnival on behalf of the Town Council for their continued efforts in providing an excellent Carnival for the town.

Councillors Mrs C Bunday, Mrs K Crout, R Hayes, M Hocking, Mrs A Jones, C Parker and M Ryan having declared personal interests in the item took part in the discussion.

E23. EVENTS UPDATE – SUMMER & AUTUMN

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the events that had taken place during the summer and early autumn. Mrs Hicks reported on the events, referring to the summary paper, previously circulated. Mrs Hicks raised the following key points:

A. AUTUMN FAYRE

- Pasty sales had raised £59.30 and were made by Home Bake from the indoor market;
- Cheese curling competition was very popular again this year with prizes for both adult and children's categories;
- The craft stalls were good and added great colour to the town centre, there had been positive feedback from stallholders, and some had requested to come back for Christmas events;
- Positive feedback from visitors, noting the variety and quality of the stalls in the town;
- Best presented outdoor stall went to 'Florigami' and best indoor stall went to "Ashford's Fruit & Veg"
- The 'bake off' competition was themed towards pasties, but this did not attract the number of entrants anticipated and Mrs Hicks asked Members to consider an appealing theme for next year, to perhaps include children and family entrants to broaden the competition.

The Chairman thanked everyone who had been involved in the event and invited questions from Members. Members raised their grave concern at the lack of support for the Autumn Fayre and also the Town Criers competition the subsequent weekend, at which only a third of the Events Sub-Committee attended and assisted in each event. Whilst it was noted that all Members may experience prior commitments the Chairman invited all Members to help where they were able to do so, as the collective support would make the events run more easily. Events such as these were very important for the vitality of the town and residents thoroughly enjoy them as evidenced by the increase in footfall at times when ordinarily the town might be less busy. Overall Councillor Bunday encouraged the support of all the Sub-Committee Members at the forthcoming events and offered her sincere thanks to those who were able to attend and support on the recent events.

B. TOWN CRIERS

The Events Co-ordinator reported that it had been a very successful day, supported by good weather and the increased footfall in the town throughout the entire day which was very positive. This year the date of the Newton Abbot Competition fell on the weekend following the Widecombe Fair, an event attended by most of the visiting Town Criers. Given the extended gap some of the Criers did not feel able to stay in the area for the additional days and therefore stood back from the Newton Abbot Competition on this occasion.

The Newton Abbot Crier had requested that Members consider the proposed date for the Competition in 2020 to take into account the Widecombe Fair and to encourage participants to be able to attend both events. Members considered that the number of attending Criers had fallen to 11 from 20 for the 2019 event and expressed their wish to support the Newton Abbot Crier and encourage participants in the 2020 event.

The Chairman thanked all those involved in making the event highly successful and the Sub-Committee recorded its appreciation to the Royal British Legion for hosting lunch for the competitors and their escorts. Councillors suggested that it may be possible to include a children's' event within Town Criers and the Events Co-ordinator offered to raise with Mr Nigel Kennieson the Newton Abbot Town Crier. Following discussion, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that a) the date of the Newton Abbot Town Criers Competition be changed to 5th September 2020 and thereby fall the weekend before the Widecombe Fair to be held on 9th September 2020 and b) that the proposed date of the Town Crier Competition be reviewed each subsequent year to ensure that it follows the same pattern in the events diary.

C. BAND CONCERTS

Mrs Hicks referred to the summary table of Band Concerts held during the Summer 2019, previously circulated, and noted that all but one had received sponsorship and that collections had again been higher year on year which was very positive. Members thanked Mrs Winsborrow for organising the events and extended their appreciation to those who had helped on those occasions. The Chairman noted that the band concerts offered delightful family entertainment and the audiences seemed to grow which showed their support.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hicks for her informative update and reports on the summer and autumn events held in the town and accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that the update provided by the Events Co-ordinator, be hereby noted and accepted.

E24. EVENTS UPDATE – FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the forthcoming events planned for the weeks leading up to Christmas 2019. Mrs Hicks reported on the arrangements in hand for the events as planned and raised the following key points:

A. LIGHT SWITCH ON – SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

- Sam Davies would use the Public Address system;

- There would be a procession through the town with Santa at 5pm;
- Breeze Radio would be live on stage from 4pm on the Clock Tower;
- The Firework finale, with synchronised frozen music would be at the Clock Tower as soon as the lights are switched on; and
- Given the increasingly large crowds, it may be possible to use a specialist sound system, 'Line Array' to project sound further down Courtenay Street. This would be subject to a site visit and would include Councillors Mike Hocking and Colin Parker.

B. VICTORIAN EVENING – WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER

- Mrs Hicks confirmed that the street entertainment had been booked including stilt walking policeman, penny farthing, and popular children's entertainer (Elfie);
- There would be bell ringing at the Clock Tower;
- The Market would be open together with food stalls in the town and late night shopping;
- Santa's grotto would be open at the Clock Tower;
- The popular fairground organ, would be positioned in Wolborough Street by the gates; and
- NA Community Choir would be singing in Market Square.

C. LANTERN PARADE – WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER

- All of the eight local primary schools had confirmed their participation;
- Approximately 20/25 pupils per school would take part in the workshops;
- The schools would attend Seale Hayne for the workshops, during the week of 2nd December;
- There will also be public workshop which will take place at Seale Hayne on Saturday 7th December, £5 a ticket;
- The theme of this year's Lantern Parade is 'Insects';
- The Children in the Lantern Parade will process from Bearnese school at 6.30pm and the Christmas story will be read at the Clock Tower at 7pm;
- Santa's grotto would be open at the Clock Tower
- The fairground organ, would attend and be by Wolborough Street gates, and
- This would mark the first of the Christmas street fayres in Queen Street and Courtenay Street.

D. MAYORS CAROL SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

- The Carol Service would be held from 7pm in the Market Square as last year;
- Performing with Newton Abbot Rock Choir;
- Santa's grotto would be open at the Clock Tower, and
- There would be street fayres in Queen Street and Courtenay Street.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hicks for her thorough and informative update to Members on the arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas events, there being no further questions from Members, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that the update provided by the Events Co-ordinator on the events planned for the weeks leading up to Christmas 2019, be hereby noted and accepted.

E25. VE DAY 2020 – 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Chairman noted the 75th Anniversary of VE Day 2020 and the preparations underway for the weekend of events from 8th - 10th May 2020 and invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the arrangements. Mrs Hicks noted that given the significance of the commemorative weekend that many events were being organised across the country and that it had been important to put plans in place well in advance to ensure that they could be provided for the town. Mrs Hicks added that the Royal British Legion would lead the events on Saturday 9th May but that she would summarise those planned and that the Town Council would lead the events planned for Sunday 10th May 2020.

Mrs Hicks highlighted the following key points from the arrangements planned to date:

- Friday 8th May (Bank Holiday), the Town Crier, Nigel Kennieson would hold a Cry in the town centre and promote the weekends, forthcoming events;
- Local churches across the town would ring the bells from 7pm;
- Saturday 9th May, the Royal British Legion planned to invite representatives from military groups to parade through the town, and there would be a short service at the Clock Tower at midday followed by a short bell ring;
- There may be additional events, but these were yet to be confirmed by the Royal British Legion;
- Sunday 10th May would be organised by the Town Council, starting with a 'Party in the Park' and Band Concert performed by the SW Comms Band;
- In addition, there would be cream teas and a 'Pimms' Tent and children's activities such as face painting to make it a family event in Courtenay Park.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hicks for her prompt action in organising the key events to date and Members discussed additional elements that could be included and suggested ways in which the events for the commemorative weekend could be publicised. Following discussion among Members accordingly it was:

AGREED that the Events Co-ordinator provide a further update on the events for the VE Day Celebrations 2020 at the next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee to be held on 8th January 2020.

E26. DATES FOR PROPOSED EVENTS 2020

The Chairman invited Members to consider the proposed dates for 2020 events, previously circulated. Members noted the proposed dates for events in 2020, following discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that;

- a) Band Concerts:
 - Sunday 10th May (SW Comms Band - VE Day event);
 - Sunday 14th June;
 - Sunday 5th July;
 - Sunday 12th July (Carnival Praise);
 - Sunday 9th August;
 - Sunday 13th September.
- b) Town Criers Competition be held on 5th September;
- c) Autumn Fayre be held on 12th September;

- d) Remembrance Sunday be held on Sunday 8th November;
- e) Christmas Lights Switch on be held on Saturday 21st November;
- f) Victorian Evening be held on Wednesday 2nd December;
- g) Lantern Parade be held on Wednesday 9th December;
- h) Mayor's Carol Service be held on Wednesday 16th December.

E27. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the Income and Expenditure statement for 1st April 2019 to 21st September 2019 for the Events Sub-Committee, previously circulated, and advised Members that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting. The Chairman invited queries to be raised at the meeting. Members discussed the rising costs of events and the overall value to residents and visitors to the town, bringing increased vitality and appeal to the town centre. Following consideration of the Income and Expenditure statement, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that a) the Income and Expenditure Statement for 1st April 2019 - 21st September 2019 for Events Sub-Committee be hereby noted and accepted and
b) the Events Sub- Committee **recommend** to the Community & Heritage Committee on 16th October that it retain a 'budget of £19,000 plus inflation for 2020/21.

E28. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As the Chairman closed the meeting, she thanked Members and all those involved in the events for their continued effort and support.

The next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee would be Wednesday 8th January 2020.

Chairman