



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Events Committee held at Arms Everytyn House on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor: K Nisbet (Chair) A Cartie (Vice-Chair), C Bruce, A Gibbs-Barton, M Parker, R Parker, J R Potts

In attendance:

Officers:

J Hughes	Town Clerk
A McCabe	Officer Manager
M Hawthorne	Committee Clerk
A Spratt	Customer Services & Admin Assistant

Invited Guests:

Paul Taylor Events Co-Ordinator

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors: L Rickerby
2.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None.
3.	MINUTES FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2016 Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.

3.1	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.
4	UPDATE FROM EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR Reports were circulated by Mr Taylor, Events Co-ordinator. 4.1 Fireworks Display Mr Taylor reported that overall feedback from the event has been positive and Committee agreed that the fireworks display was excellent. However, the general consensus was that the event was too long and it was noted that the quayside was very quiet between 2.00 – 4.30 pm with the main influx of people beginning between 4.30 – 5.00 pm. The Port of Blyth have expressed their concern at the possibility of future displays being held on the Quayside due to the new housing development. Capacity for the event was between 10,000 -12,000 people. There were no health and safety issues. Discussion took place around the change of venue for the carnival rides. Mr Taylor explained that he was notified 24 hours prior to the event that the large rides would not be present for the event and that Mr Houghton had negotiated with workspace to use their car park. Councillor Bruce asked for clarification regarding the charges from Frontline Security as they were much higher than those for the Christmas Lights switch on. Mr Taylor explained that the costs reflect the cost of ambulance hire and 4 medic stations during the event which were not required at the light switch on. Councillor Bruce asked Mr Taylor to provide a more detailed breakdown. 4.2 Christmas Lights Switch On Mr Taylor referred to his report and invited questions from the Committee. The Chair commented that this was the worst Light

	<p>switch on she had attended adding that the compere was very poor. Mr Taylor said the event was moved from a Friday evening and in hindsight this did not work and the timeframe was too long. Councillor Parker, in her capacity as Mayor, reiterated the concerns raised by the Chair and noted that the running order was not adhered to and as a result she was not able to fulfil her role at the event. Overall, the feeling was that this event did not work, comments from residents suggest that it was not broadly advertised. Positive comments were received about the quality of the light and the tree and these have also been posted on social media. Councillor Gibbs-Barton asked for the comments to be put on the Council website.</p> <p>Discussion took place around future switch on events and suggestions included making it a more traditional event, to include a choir/brass band etc. Consideration will also be given to placing lights in areas other than the town centre and may include Christmas trees on the roundabouts. Committee agreed that decisions need to be made about events for 2017.</p> <p>Councillor R Potts commented that the Council may wish to consider purchasing PA equipment for use throughout the year at events. This will be explored further by the Town Clerk.</p>
5	BUDGET 2017/18 <p>The Town Clerk referred to his report and the budget sheet which was circulated to all Councillors and asked Committee to consider his proposals.</p> <p>A request has been received from James Fell for the Council to support the Blyth Battery event in 2017. There was some discussion as to whether the Blyth Battery applied to Community Grants for support in 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Parker referred to the budget allocated to the Olympic Legacy and suggested this should come via Community Grants. Councillor R Potts drew attention to Minute No 7 of the previous</p>

	<p>minutes where a decision was made to support this from the Events budget.</p> <p>Following discussion around some of the budget figures Committee agreed to the budget outline to go forward to the budget setting meeting in January 2017.</p>
6	<p>FUTURE STRATEGY FOR EVENTS</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked Committee to consider his report which outlines a change of approach in advertising for potential applicants. He added that an advert has been placed in the Stage for an Events Strategist/Organiser felt that a wider coverage was needed.</p> <p>Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that the post(s) should be advertised locally. NCC have agreed to advertise on their social media and websites.</p>
7.	<p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>
8.	<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday, 24 January 2017, 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>

Subject to ratification
Final

MEMBERS OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Councillors:

K Nisbet (Chair)

A Cartie (Vice-Chair)

C Bruce

A Gibbs-Barton

M Parker

R Parker

J R Potts

L Rickerby

A Turnbull