



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL'S EVENTS COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, NE24 2AS on Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors:

K Nisbet (Chair), A Cartie (Vice-Chair), A Gibbs-Barton, A Turnbull

Officers:

Sue Noddings – Town Clerk (Corporate Services)
Alison McCabe – Office Manager
Liam Forsyth – Committee Clerk

Invited Guests:

Paul Taylor – Events Co-ordinator
Representative from Royal Northumberland Yacht Club
Representative from Blyth Town Team

111/01/14: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bruce, J R Potts and L Rickerby.

112/02/14: DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND ANY GRANTS OF DISPENSATION

None.

113/03/14: MINUTES FROM EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The Minutes of the Events Committee held on the 30th September 2014 were **AGREED** by the Committee having previously been adopted at the last Meeting of the Full Council.

114/04/14: FEEDBACK FROM THE FIREWORKS EVENT

The Chair of the Committee opened the discussion of this item, by thanking the Events Co-ordinator, his staff and family.

The Events Co-ordinator provided an outline for the event. It was noted that the event passed off with very few incidents (two minor casualties).

The Vice Chair, Councillor A Cartie, commented on the Stakeholder Meeting which took place following the event, outlining that the feedback had been overwhelmingly positive.

Paul Taylor also outlined issues experienced on the North Side of the River Blyth. It was commented that this had threatened to delay the event; however co-operation with the Police had alleviated the issue.

Discussion was also then held as to the positive feedback received from members of the public who had attended the event.

An enquiry was made as to how many wristbands had been sold for the event. It was noted that 13,741 wristbands, this is not inclusive of residents and businesses within the exclusion zone who were issued with complimentary wristbands.

The Events Co-ordinator commented that he is awaiting an invoice from Northumbria Police for the event.

115/05/14: FEEDBACK FROM THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH EVENT

The Events Co-ordinator provided an outline for this event, it was noted that this event passed off without major incident with only 1 minor casualty reported.

The footfall for the event was also discussed. Paul Taylor commented that it had been estimated at 6,000 to 7,000.

An email from Councillor C Bruce was also discussed. It was suggested that a tree topper be purchased in order to enhance the Christmas Tree.

Discussion of replacing the lighting and development was also discussed.

The Town Clerk (Corporate Services) commented that Blachere Illumination had offers currently and that refurbished Christmas Tree Toppers are priced at around £300.

Issues with the lighting in Blyth, was then discussed by the Committee.

It was noted that a decision needs to be made as to further lighting, including any potential plans for areas such as the band stand, in order to be budgeted for accordingly. It was further stated that extra lights have been purchased this year for the Christmas Tree.

Councillor A Gibbs-Barton enquired as to whether it would be possible to buy in advance within the budget for this financial year and whether this could be tied into the new lamp standards.

It was **AGREED** that Paul Taylor is to call a meeting with Mark Kane and Steve Marshall to discuss development and an associated budget.

Other plans organised by Blachere were also discussed including intra school competitions. The associated logistics for such schemes were also discussed.

The Events Co-ordinator commented that he had received positive feedback from Joe McElderry's Agent and commented that Joe wished to thank the people of Blyth for their incredible support.

Discussion was then held as to the turnout and Councillors wished to thank Joe for his attendance and for taking time out of his busy schedule to sign memorabilia for fans in the Keel Row shopping centre.

116/06/14: BUDGET 2015/2016

The Town Clerk (Corporate Services) provided an outline for this item. It was noted that the budget is to be developed and agreed for the budgeting process.

It was noted that the focus of the budget is to take place at the next Meeting of the Events Committee on the 9th December 2014.

117/07/14: ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR ITEMS FOR URGENT ATTENTION

The Town Clerk (Corporate Services) commented that the Office had received correspondence from the Briardale Community Centre. It was

commented that Barrattiel and the Briardale are organising a Christmas Dinner for the elderly, homeless and lonely. In order to host and support this event, the organisations are looking for donations from crackers and food to scarves.

It was **AGREED** that Blyth Town Council is to promote this event via its social media and website.

Councillor A Gibbs-Barton enquired as to whether the Councillors for the associated wards could seek to use their small schemes via arrangement with Community Grants. This was **AGREED** to be investigated.

The Office Manager and Committee Clerk also outlined that they would be willing to receive and deliver donations to the Briardale Community Centre if this proved easier.

For consideration of this the further items the Council **RESOLVED** to consider the remaining business in private with the press and public excluded pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that the business involves the consideration of staff related matters.

Following the exclusion of the press and public discussions were held regarding the contract of the Events Co-ordinator.

Paul Taylor commented that he would be happy to continue in post noting that issues appear to have been ironed out and events are proceeding successfully.

Councillor A Gibbs-Barton moved that Paul be re-appointed and wished to comment that complaints regarding Events are to go through the Events Committee and the Chair in order to ease to strain on the Events Co-ordinator.

It was **AGREED** that a draft contract is to be prepared for the next Meeting of the Events Committee.

It was also commented that the independent Health and Safety report conducted is to be made available to all Councillors and that the insurance company had commented that the standard set by Blyth Town Council was exemplary.

118/08/14: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next Meeting of the Events Committee is to be held on the 9th December 2014 at 6.30pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20PM

SIGNED :

DATE:

MEMBERS OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE:

Cllr K Nisbet (Chair)
Cllr A Cartie (Vice-Chair)
Cllr C Bruce
Cllr A Gibbs-Barton
Cllr M Parker
Cllr J R Potts
Cllr L Rickerby
Cllr G Thompson
Cllr A Turnbull

PLUS INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Paul Taylor – Events Co-ordinator (Contractor)
Michael Nicholson – National Market Traders Federation
Steve Bucknall – Northumberland County Council
Steven Bradley and/or another representative of Blyth Town Team
Representative from Friends of Ridley Park
Representative from the Port of Blyth
Representative from Northumbria Police
Representative from BVAL
Representative from Aspire2Achieve
Representative from Headway Arts
Representative from BAIT
Representative from Royal Northumberland Yacht Club