



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Events Committee** held at  
Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 6.30 pm

**Present:**

**Councillors:** K Nisbet (Chair), A Cartie (Vice-Chair), E Anderson-Smith,  
K Ellis, R Parker, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor

**Also present:**

Councillors: J R Potts, O Potts

J Hughes                      Town Clerk  
A McCabe                     Office Manager  
M Jackson                    Events Co-ordinator

Members of the Public – 1

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Councillor L Rickerby. M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk
<b>2</b>	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS &amp; THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS</b>  None.
<b>3</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017 INCLUDING ACTIONS</b>  The Town Clerk gave an update on the actions.  Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.

<b>3.1</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  There were no matters arising.
<b>4</b>	<b>UPDATE FROM EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR</b>  The Events Co-ordinator referred to her report and gave additional verbal feedback.  <u>Blyth Carnival</u>  This was a good effort by Headway Arts and it is hoped that next year the event will be delivered during school term in order to get engagement from school children as the numbers were disappointing. Although the funfair was quite good alternatives are being explored for future events. Members were asked to consider changing the date of the Carnival to the first week in June to co-incide with the Co-ordinator's plan for June to be Festival Month in Blyth.  <u>Tour of Britain</u>  This was a very good event. The Events Co-ordinator worked hard to engage businesses but did meet with negative comments and there was a lack of uptake. Frameworks looked superb and other businesses stood out. McDonalds and Greggs did a litter pick on Cowpen Road and local services took litter away. Dominos pizzas provided free food on the day.  <u>Fireworks Display</u>  Only one minor problem with regard to parking. It is hoped there will be an update by the end of the week and this will be feedback to Councillors.  Expenditure is within budget and park and ride pick up points have been secured. Asda may be supporting the event and the Port of Blyth and Keel Row have been approached too.  <u>Christmas Light Switch On</u>  A photo shoot with Santa and Mrs Claus together with some children for the posters has taken place.

The Salvation Army band is no longer attending the event so the Events Co-ordinator is looking for a replacement, at a reasonable cost. Keel Row is sponsoring the gifts Santa will give to the children. Santa is to help turn on the lights and will be in the Keel Row every Saturday on the run up to Christmas.

The Events Co-ordinator is now beginning to focus on next year. There is a lot of interest in the Easter event and a lot of requests have been received from bands who want to play at Northumberland Live. The Chair commented that she would like the budget to reflect the success of the event.

Councillor Cartie has received some information regarding Blyth Maritime Festival 2018 (first week in June) which may clash with the Festival. The Events Co-ordinator said she would be very happy to work with the Tall Ship Project on this. A report has been prepared by Clive Grey and this will be circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor J R Potts expressed his concern should a Council event clash with the Maritime Festival as they have already started to plan their event for next year. Concerns have been raised at earlier meetings about the lack of knowledge around previously arranged events. Councillor Parker said he would like to see how the Council can work with everyone in the Town.

The Events Co-ordinator said she would like to organise a meeting with Mr Grey to discuss how they can work together. Committee discussed the possibility of using the bank holiday weekend for the event or the perhaps the last week of the summer school term. Councillor Taylor asked if there is no way the two events could work together with the Carnival having a maritime theme and also perhaps asking those receiving community grants to take part in the Council's events.

The Chair noted that a similar Carnival has worked extremely well in Stockton.

Committee agreed that a discussion needs to take place with Clive Grey and this will be considered further at the Events Committee in October.

	<p>Councillor Parker said we need to consider how much will be committed in the budget for events.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the report provided and thanked the Officer Manager for her work on the plan and report which outlined two proposals. He suggested Committee opt for the second proposal which is more cost effective. This would leave some money in the budget to allow the Council to buy additional motifs. Following discussion Committee agreed the proposal for the town centre lighting plan and also agreed to purchase new motifs for Newsham roundabout and look at placing motifs over the gates beside the Co-op.</p> <p>Any remaining funding can be used to purchase additional motifs in the new year.</p> <p>Committee thanked the Office Manager for her hard work on this matter.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>NORTHUMBRIA AND BLYTH IN BLOOM</b></p> <p>The Chair gave feedback from the above stating that it was another good year for Blyth:</p> <p>The awards are as follows:</p> <p>Ridley Park – Gold Award and outright winner on Parks category (last year it was shared). Tynedale House - Gold for a second time. Cowpen Crematorium - Silver Gilt. St Cuthbert’s Court – Silver Gilt. Private Garden – Louise Tweedy, Albatross Way - Gold.</p> <p>Overall award for Blyth – Silver</p> <p>Blyth in Bloom presentations took place on Wednesday 20 September 2017. The results are as follows:</p> <p>Front Garden - Glen Brown, Chestnut Avenue Back Garden – Robert and Beryl Cessford, South Beach Back Yard – Isobel Hatcher, Forster Street</p>

	<p>Commercial Community - Tynedale House Allotments - Stephen MacMillan, Beatrice Avenue Judges Discretionary Award - Jean Hayton, South Shore Estate</p> <p>This is the first year this competition has taken place and the Chair thanked the Office Manager for her support with this. It is hoped that this will carry on for years to come. Councillor J Potts said one of the competitors thanked him for the event and will be entering again next year, he also asked if a gardening club could be established. Councillor Parker suggested we include this on the entry form for next year. It was suggested putting a link on the website to garden swap and share and little ladies gardening club as it is in the Northumberland area. This will be considered for the future.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>A member of public in attendance, Paul Taylor, asked the Council to consider for the future a power boat race off Blyth in the South Shore area to Seaton Sluice. He has been in touch with two organisations who hold international events which will be televised on Sky tv. The starting cost is £20,000, including a travelling crew of 150 people.</p> <p>Councillor Ellis commented that he feels this is a worthwhile suggestion. Councillor Parker asked that this is explored further with NCC as there is work taking place on wind turbines which could impact on such an event.</p> <p>In principle the Council agreed this could be a good event, however there are a lot of factors to consider including health and safety and insurance costs as the Council's insurance would not cover a dangerous sport. The event could not take place on the river as it is a working port and there is a speed limit. One of the biggest costs would be security barriers on the promenade.</p> <p>Agreed the Events Co-ordinator will carry out research and feedback to Events at a future date. Mr Taylor will provide the Events co-ordinator with the information he has collated to date.</p>

<b>8</b>	<b>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b>  Tuesday, 24 October 2017, 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.
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**MEMBERS OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Councillors:

K Nisbet (Chair)	A Cartie (Vice-Chair)
E Anderson-Smith	K Ellis
R Parker	M Richardson
L Rickerby	S Stanger
W Taylor	

### **ACTIONS FROM COMMITTEE**

<b>Minute No &amp; date of Committee</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date Action Completed</b>
Minute No 6 25/7/17	Explore with NCC extra costs for the larger light columns	ES Officer		
Minute No 4 3/10/17	Meet with Clive Grey to discuss the Maritime Festival/Blyth Carnival	Events Co-ordinator		
Minute No 7 3/10/17	Further research required re the possibility of a Powerboat Race in Blyth	Events Co-Ordinator		