

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Christmas Committee held in the Mayor's Parlour,
College House, Bridgnorth on Monday 13th November 2017 at 5.30pm**

Present: Councillors D Cooper, J Gittins (Chairman), R Whittle OBE
and Councillor Mrs C Baines MBE

Co-opted Members: Dr M Tipping, Mrs S Themans and Mrs P
Harris

Minutes Secretary and transcribed by Mrs P Russell

0421/1718 **FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The meeting commenced with a fire safety announcement by the Chairman

0422/1718 **APOLOGIES**

RESOLVED: to receive the apology as listed below

Mrs S Barlow - Alternative Commitment
Mr B Davies

0423/1718 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary interests:

Dr M Tipping is Director of Bridgnorth Castle Hill Railway Company Ltd
which was sponsor in 2015, 2016 and 2017 of the Tree of Reflection.

0424/1718 **MINUTES**

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the Christmas Committee meeting
held on 16th October 2017, having previously been circulated, be signed by
the Chairman as a true record.

Councillor R Whittle OBE requested that an amendment to the minutes
under apologies be made "unknown" replacing with 'meeting with Locum'.

Councillor R Whittle OBE reminded the Committee Chairman that the
giving the go ahead to order the lights before it had been agreed at Town
Council was outside the remit of the Christmas Committee and had had to
be done in retrospect as the Chairman had instructed a member of staff to
place the order and felt that it needed to be reported to internal audit.

The Chairman stated that he had given a verbal update at the Town
Council Meeting on 16th October 2017 regarding his actions.

Councillor R Whittle OBE said that the expenditure had not been agreed for
the £4155.00 and that this was against standing orders.

Councillor D Cooper replied to this comment saying he took strong exception to allegedly breaking financial regulations in reply Councillor R Whittle OBE replied that Councillor J Gittins had failed to get Council approval as no resolution was made so financial regulations had been broken.

After a heated discussion regarding data protection it was agreed that we must be more vigilant regarding sensitive information.

0425/1718 **UPDATE ON FUND RAISING**

Members were updated on sponsorship money and goods pledged to date.

Sponsors money confirmed to date £3000.00

Mrs S Themans wanted to say a big thank you to Pauline, Pat and Alex for all their hard work.

At this point in the meeting both Mrs S Themans and Councillor J Gittins declared that they might have a pecuniary interest as they have donated to the sponsorship.

It was noted that Bridgnorth Town Council funding of £1400.00 has not been used for lamp post features this year, and that this had been added to the £3000.00 raised by sponsorship

Bridgnorth Town Council - will purchase mulled wine a maximum of £60. Also to be taken into consideration when purchasing quantities that Mrs Harris has agreed to donate two bottles and the Mayor Councillor Ron Whittle OBE has agreed to do the same.

Co-op - has donated 150 boxes mince pies, cups, and marshmallows and will bring their own gazebo.

Bridgnorth Town Council – the setup of gazebos, tables, chairs, extension, generators and lights the Chairman has agreed all this with the Properties and Grounds Manager Mr B Ince

Lodge Lane Stand - it was agreed that Lodge Lane will keep any monies taken on the day.

Hot Chocolate and Crepes - will be on sale and it was agreed that they will make a donation to the MS Charity.

Santa - will be collecting for the MS Charity.

Light Switch - on Dr Tipping's Mother Mrs Eileen Tipping.

Music and Sound System - the Chairman to organise, at no cost to the Town Council.

Patrick O'Shea - to read his Poem.

Carol sheet - to be confirmed.

Dr M Tipping confirmed that the Cliff Railway would be staying open until 8.00pm on the 17th and 18th of November 2017 for the light up.

Members discussed the above ideas and options and that Lightwire had agreed to supply the lights for the gazebos for free making a saving of £700.

The Quayside event - will be taking place on Saturday 18th November 2017 from 4pm to 6pm.

Volunteers - Mrs P Harris has recruited 5 and we have 3 DLF helping.

Banner - One New to be erected as well as the previous two.

0426/1718 **PROJECTS 2018**

Members were asked to consider the suggestions for new projects 2018 and the way forward for this year. It was noted that the Christmas Committee will start in January 2018

1) Lighting up the Town Hall

It was suggested again that the Committee look into a number of possibilities such as a projector that can be beamed onto the Town Hall from a lamp post and project colours and images around the High Street. Also, back lighting in the Town Hall. Blachere have already been contacted regarding projection of lights, an update to be brought back to the next meeting.

2) Mini Christmas Trees on the High Street

Mini Christmas trees to be hung on the walls and lit up along the High Street. This is to be investigated in the coming months.

3) Lighting of other areas

It was suggested that the Committee could also look at Bank Street and others in that vicinity. Along with St Mary's Street, Castle Walk and the High Street Christmas lights, involving the businesses in the High Street.

Councillor R Whittle OBE said that he had had complaints from staff about having two lighting up events perhaps this can be taken into

consideration for future events. Also perhaps the cost of putting up and taking down of the lights could be included in the sponsorship money so that all new projects are self funding.

The next meeting of the Christmas Committee was arranged for Monday 29th January 2018 at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.20pm