

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

RW/2022  
28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022  
REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS  
AGENDA ITEM 9 – CARNIVAL 2023

AIM

1. To reach an understanding on the appropriate levels of reserves needed by the Carnival Committee to enable the 2023 carnival to go ahead.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the following resolution was passed under minute number 0198/2223:  
**RESOLVED:** for a discussion to take place between the Proper Officer and the Carnival Committee about what the appropriate level of reserves should be to enable the 2023 Carnival to go ahead before requesting any claw back of Grant or charging for additional costs incurred by the Council in 2022.
3. The interim Town Clerk met with both Mr D Gough and Mr J Gittins on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

DISCUSSION/COMMENT (the following comments were made by the Carnival Committee)

4. The members of the Carnival Committee feel a little aggrieved; the recent discussions held at the Events Committee and Council appear, to some, to show that Council do not feel that the Carnival Committee have operated in the best of ways.
5. The 2022 expenditure was kept to the absolute minimum knowing the 'high risk' attached to running an event of this nature.
6. The Committee feel that the Town Council remain solely responsible for expensing and taking the responsibility for dressing the town and streets as they deem fit. The tourist season, considered March to December, could reap the benefit of an enhanced appearance, and lift the atmosphere appropriately.
7. The Carnival Committee is made up entirely of volunteers.
8. It is hoped that the Carnival can grow and become better and better as the years progress. This should ensure not only a great event for the people of Bridgnorth but also encourage visitors to the town and thus provide a boost to the local economy.
9. The Committee also wish to increase the number and quality of attractions, music acts, entertainment etc.
10. The date for next year's Carnival is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

FINANCIALS

11. The Income and Expenditure statement was looked at in detail. (Council staff are to provide details of companies etc that we have used previously for events to see if any cost savings can be made).

12. The expenditure came to £6,054.71; all of which has to be paid regardless of any late cancellation of the event or poor attendance.
13. 59% of the income received for the event came from 2 sources. Sources that are very much dependant on customers on the day; sales of alcohol and the fun fair.
14. The level of customer involvement depends greatly on the weather.
15. The Carnival Committee appear to have a reasonable operating budget at this stage and this provides confidence of sustainability for coming years, which can only be of benefit to the Town as a whole.
16. There is a surplus of £6,116.69 which includes the original £5,000 grant from the Town Council which is held in a Carnival Committee bank account.
17. The cost of running the Carnival is set to increase for 2023 due to the current economic climate; an increase of 20%?
18. Discussions have already taken place with the committee about the level of security needed and if this needs to be increased.
19. The Town Council budget for FY 2019/2020 was set at £7,800

### SUMMARY

20. The Carnival Committee would envisage an operating budget of £7,266 (Actual expenditure for 2022 £6,055 plus 20%) plus £1,000 contingency to enable the Committee to become self-sufficient going forward.

### RECOMMENDATION(s)

21. To agree to the level of reserves needed and further agree to the Carnival grant of £2,500 remaining in the 2022/2023 budget.

Ros Williams  
Interim Town Clerk