

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 5.30pm.**

Present: Councillors R Connolly (Chair), I Wellings (Vice Chair), C Aked, and S Barlow

In Attendance: Mrs C Turner - Town Clerk

0001/2324 **WELCOME**

The Chair issued a welcome to the meeting.

0002/2324 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was proposed by Councillor I Wellings, seconded by Councillor R Connolly unanimously agreed by all Councillors present

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor I Wellings as Chair of the Events Committee.

0003/2324 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

It was proposed by Councillor I Wellings, seconded by Councillor C Aked and unanimously agreed by all Councillors present

RESOLVED: to defer the election of Vice Chair to a future Events Committee meeting.

0004/2324 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were provided.

0005/2324 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

0006/2324 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public, raised the following question:

Regarding High Street events, is it now time for a prepared check list of conditions to be presented to promoters which has to be fully signed off, with accompanying evidence, at least a month before an event date and in the event that undertakings are broken on the day, an application by any promoter will not be approved for the following year?

A member of the public, raised the following:

There are 3 issues:

1. *Headship to local residents*
2. *Health and safety issue affecting residents and visitors alike*
3. *Taxpayers' concern at possible legal action against our 2 councils if both the former not being addressed in part or in whole.*

To expend:



- Residents are legally entitled to access to their homes in a non emergency., They may have other obligations on an event day and need vehicle access. With that comes the need to publish and manage road diversion.
- Residents and visitors are entitled to adequate health and safety measures such as emergency vehicle access.

Examples:

- Concerning health and safety plans, in the past vehicle access has been blocked by market stalls or expensive motor cars.
- Concerning residents' access, on far too many occasions there has been inadequate provision for those living in Cartway and Friars St and Old School Mews in particular. I.e. There has been no notification of event details in whole or in part, including diversion through Postern Gate, no marshals to enforce access, misplaced signage, etc.

In short, current procedures are completely inadequate because promoters are not it seems not signed up to proper conditions.

The Chair informed that the Town Council was working on a checklist to provide to all event organisers who were seeking a road closure for High Street, this would include information and communication required for the road closure and updating the residents.

A member of the public, Mr Edward Marshall, asked to read the following statement:

As members may be aware, Bridgnorth Town Council is currently involved in an unexpected large and financially expensive project. Bridgnorth Town Council is basically funded by the residents of Bridgnorth Town and any significant increase in the cost of running the Council likely to lead to an increase in Council Tax paid by the residents. I note the following items on tonight's agenda which could be rejected with no adverse effects on the services provided by the Council to its residents.

Item 9. Coronation Tea Party. I specifically refer to the reference to set a provisional date for next years event. In the past 2 years there have been Tea Parties funded by the Town Council or part of the celebrations including Royal Events. I have heard that everyone who attended the Tea Party thought them to be a great success, although many attendees were clearly able to look after themselves and pay costs involved. Next year, there is no significant National Event meriting a celebratory Team Party, so why is the Events Committee giving consideration to holding such a tea party next year?

Item 13, Bridgnorth in Bloom. There is a request from Love Bridgnorth for the Town Council to become involved in the Annual Bridgnorth in Bloom competition by providing the necessary (amount not specified) to purchase rosettes and prize vouches.

Why can't Love Bridgnorth raise this money themselves from the businesses in Bridgnorth who presumable they have some contact, rather than residents of the town.

Also, who is / are Love Bridgnorth? Does Bridgnorth Town Council have information about the owners of Love Bridgnorth, membership if any, accounting, etc.

The Chair confirmed that the Tea Party held in May 2023, was paid for using a grant which the Town Council applied and were successful in.

12.00.23



It was informed that Love Bridgnorth was an independent organisation, and the Town Council did not hold any information regarding them, or other independent organisations, but this could be found on companies house / government website.

0008/2324 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Aked
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 5.30pm and to include the following amendment:

- 00396/2223 Public Question Time. There were no public questions.

0009/2324 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no members questions.

0010/2324 **CORONATION TEA PARTY**

Members were provided with an update from Councillor Connolly regarding the Coronation Tea Party that had taken place, this included:

- 85 People attended the event
- Some good had been donated by businesses in the area
- History boards had been displayed curtesy of Mr Clive Gwilt
- Positive feedback had been received from those who had attended

Proposed by Councillor R Connolly to propose a date for the tea party event to take place the following year 2023/24. There was no seconder for this proposal it therefore did not carry.

Members held a debate considering having a tea party in 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Aked
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to defer the agenda items for future debate and decision on holding the Tea Party in 2023/24 to a future Events Committee meeting.

The Events Committee wanted to thank everyone who contributed to making the Coronation Tea Party such a great success.

Councillor S Barlow joined the meeting.

0011/2324 **ITALIAN AUTOMOTO FESTIVAL 2023**

Members were informed that a meeting with the organisers of the Italian Automoto Festival 2023 to be arranged and a copy of the checklist would be created, provided and discussed as part of the meeting, as well as including previous comments and notes from Events Committees.

0012/2324 **TRACTOR RALLEY**

It was proposed by Councillor C Aked, seconded by Councillor S Barlow
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to invite the organisers of the Tractor Rally to a future meeting of the Events Committee and provide a copy of the checklist to them.

0013/2324 **REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY**

12.09.23



Members discussed and debated the Remembrance Sunday event for 2023.

Members noted the correspondence received from RAF Cosford on the level of their involvement for 2023.

Members confirmed the following:

- a) For the parade to form up in Whitburn Street.
- b) Discussed the position of the Councillors within the Castle Grounds to be on the pathway.
- c) For the wreaths to be transferred from the War Memorial to the bandstand on the Monday 13th November 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor S Barlow, seconded by Councillor R Connolly

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to agree for the Armistice Day service to take place in the Castle Grounds on Saturday 11th November 2023 due to the market taking place under the Town Hall.

0014/2324 **BRIDGNORTH IN BLOOM**

Members debated the proposal from Love Bridgnorth for the Town Council to become involved in the annual Bridgnorth in Bloom competition.

It was proposed by Councillor S Barlow, seconded by Councillor R Connolly

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to agree for the Events Committee to pay £130.00 to Love Bridgnorth for the rosettes and vouchers for the Bridgnorth in Bloom competition for 2023.

0015/2324 **TEDDY BEARS PICNIC**

Members were provided with and noted a verbal update from the Grounds and Services Officer regarding the Teddy Bears Picnic event.

0016/2324 **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**

Members debated the update on the Christmas Lights Switch On event for 2023 provided by the Grounds and Services Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor S Barlow, seconded by Councillor C Aked

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to agree the competition for the primary schools for 2023 to be a Christmas Bauble decorating competition with the winning designs being printed onto a bauble as the prize.

Councillor R Connolly left the meeting.

0017/2324 **BRIDGNORTH TOWN CARNIVAL**

Members debated the Bridgnorth Town Carnival which takes place on Severn Park and run by the Bridgnorth Carnival Committee.

Concerns were raised regarding the base amplifiers which could be heard in the Hobbins.

Councillor R Connolly returned to the meeting.

0018/2324 **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

Members discussed the following items for inclusion on a future agenda:

- Signage

12.09.23



- Funding for future carnivals

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and wished them good night.

END : 7.15pm

