

**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council
Minutes of the Events and Media Working Group
held on 29 January 2018 at 7.30pm**

1 Present: Miss S Lawn (Chairman) Mr J Emsell Mr J Ward

Apologies: Mrs J Fisher Mr J Fisher Mr G Lawton Mr L Reeves Mr R Robson

In attendance:

Ms F Bass (Deputy Town Clerk)

Mrs D Matthews (Committee Officer)

Also attending was Father James, Alison from the Salvation Army and Cllr S Snelling

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None made.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – POSITIVES/NEGATIVES

Members considered the note circulated detailing a few complaints which had been posted on social media about the event. Having regard to the continuing success of the event and the majority of positive feedback received, they agreed to note the concerns raised. It was felt that the event had almost become a victim of its own success in that the volume of people now attending was causing concern and there was a need to ensure the event continued to be manageable and retain its meaning. To that end, the following thoughts/suggestions were put forward for further consideration:

- Adopting a more traditional “Dickensian” theme for the event;
- Focus to be on retaining the more traditional elements including, the church, father Christmas, turning on of the lights, carol singing, donkeys, craft and food stalls;
- Less emphasis on the commercial element;
- No large funfair rides - only 2 or 3 small, more traditional rides (swing-boat, tea-cups etc.) and no stage
- The focus to be on younger children and parents/grandparents with consideration being given to an alternative additional Christmas event aimed at older children/teenagers (see minute no 7 below);
- Possible use of the Salvation Army Band – Alison agreed to look into this;
- Potential date to be 2 December;
- Reorganisation of the location of stalls/rides – no stalls near the church, rides to be on the carpark of The Buck, stalls in the laybys;

- Stall holders to have car passes to be used only after the road has been closed;

It was agreed to give further consideration to these matters at the next meeting.

5 **ST GEORGE'S DAY – 22 APRIL 2018**

Medieval Show - Contact had been made with the knights' re-enactment group regarding the booking for St George's day. It was noted that direct contact with the group would result in a saving in costs (£800 compared to £1,200) and an enhanced range of activities compare to last year. It was agreed to seek written confirmation of the range of activities being offered.

Punch and Judy – agreed to invite them again this year at a cost of £190.

Morris Dancers - agreed to invite them again this year at a cost of £180.

It was also agreed to include the dogs as part of the activities (time permitting) donkeys, colouring competition and craft and food stalls. Despite not being particularly well supported, members were minded to hold the car-boot sale again perhaps with more publicity. They agreed not to hold a raffle. Members asked for an estimate of the timings of the main activities to ensure there was time for all the performances. Father James enquired about the church hosting a stall at the event which was welcomed.

6 **LORD MAYOR'S PROCESSION**

Members agreed to enter a float/trailer in this year's Lord Mayor's Procession. (Last year's date was 8 July but this year was yet to be confirmed). Following previous discussions about a "carnival king/queen" for the Town it was agreed to invite nominations for a girl and boy to become the Thorpe St Andrew Junior Ambassadors who could represent the Town at all the main events during the year and at the Lord Mayor's Procession. An item could be included in the next newsletter and approaches made to local organisations (brownies/guides/scouts) to invite candidates for the roles.

7 **PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVENT**

Further to the discussion held earlier in the meeting (minute no 4 above), it was suggested that consideration be given to hosing an additional Christmas event on the weekend before the Christmas lights event at the Fitzmaurice Pavilion which would appeal to older children/teenagers and residents. Ideas for the event included: hosting it over a 3-day period (e.g. Friday evening, Saturday afternoon/evening and Sunday afternoon, a synthetic ice rink, funfair, beer tent/bands (approach Fat Cat to host?), wooden hut style Christmas market stalls (hired in and leased to stall holders for the weekend?). It was agreed to investigate the idea further including costings and consider the possibility again at the next meeting.

8 **PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL SUMMER ARMED FORCES EVENT**

Reference was made to suggestions for a summer armed forces event to celebrate

the centenary of the end of the First World War. Members noted that the church was hosting its annual fete (provisionally on Saturday 21 July) and felt there was merit in a combined event with the Town Council's celebrations supporting the church fete. Ideas included possibly a church service, followed by the fete, then a tea/garden party at Rivergreen, possibly with the Salvation Army Band, and the unveiling of the memorial garden. Members were not minded to seek a road closure for the celebrations as this was a Saturday and unlikely to be approved. The theme could be peace time and could involve period costume/enactments as part of the celebrations. Father James undertook to raise the possibility with his fete organisers to see if there was scope for hosting a combined celebration. He also mentioned the possible refurbishment/unveiling of a memorial at the Church.

9 FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTER

The Deputy Clerk (FB) commented that she was drafting the newsletter but would now need to incorporate the items referred to at this meeting. It was noted that there would be plenty of items for inclusion in the newsletter.

10 FINANCES

Officers had been asked to provide a full breakdown of the finances for all events and this would be provided for them to consider at the next meeting. In the mean time the Chairman highlighted that overall, the net cost to the Town Council of all the events organised together with the newsletter and the remembrance celebrations was £436 which was a relatively small sum for such a range of very successful events.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman said that Alison from the Salvation Army was welcome to attend future meetings of the Committee and that the Salvation Army Band would be most welcome at any events organised by the Town if they were available.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 26 February 2018

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed:

Dated: