

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Events Committee
held on Monday 7th February 2023 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor Jeff Brooks (Chairman)
 Councillors John Boyd, Ellen Crumly, Mark Lillycrop, Simon Pike and Christine Rice

In attendance: John Sackett (Events Manager)

EV/2022/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Cole and Lourdes Cottam.

EV/2022/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EV/2022/38 MINUTES

RESOLVED

To take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2022.

EV/2022/39 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

EV/2022/40 WARMING UP FOR CHRISTMAS-LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Events Manager commented on the increase in stallholders which was up to 35 stalls as well as visitors attending the event at an estimate of 3,300. Financial income was up by £680 with sponsorship targets reached and an increase in advertising and stallholder income. Costs were also significantly less than anticipated.

Councillors Boyd and Lillycrop mentioned issues with delivery drivers driving fast when entering from the A4 into the High Street, as well as The Co-op Broadway entrance. This issue to be discussed to get Police and Traffic Management assistance /support for 2023 event.

EV/2022/41 FREEDOM OF THE TOWN 2023

Communication received on behalf of Royal School of Military Survey (RSMS) that unfortunately due to reduced numbers they were no longer able to accept the invitation to exercise the Freedom of the Town event in 2023 and the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED

(i) that a formal letter of thanks be sent from The Mayor, (ii) that the Events Manager to enquire if this meant they would not support other parade events, such as Remembrance Day, (iii) to check if this meant that RSMS would now lose the right to enjoy the Freedom of the Town in perpetuity and to check what the criteria might be if the Town Council wished to invite other organisations to have the Freedom of the Town.

EV/2022/42 KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Two ideas raised by Dr Nick Young at the Heritage Working Party were considered. Firstly, Anvil Firing as an event which used to occur in Thatcham was discussed at length. It was agreed that there was insufficient time to organise anything for this May's Coronation, although Committee were keen to find out more information.

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EV/2022/42 KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Secondly, the Time Capsule proposal was welcomed and Members were keen to progress and find out more details regarding project, the school's involvement and costs.

An idea of a Thatcham Town Council lunch on the Sunday of the Coronation was discussed to fit with the national Big Lunch initiative, as well as planned community initiatives and how the Town Council might support these.

RESOLVED that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Events Manager meet to recommend a course of action.

EV/2022/43 BUDGET 2022/23

a) Members noted the expenditure and income report for the year to date.

b) Members considered the following referral from the Finance and General Purposes Committee, following its meeting on 23rd January 2023, regarding a request from the Events Manager to purchase PA equipment:

FGP/2023/007 Purchase of Public Address (PA) Equipment

To refer this item to the Events Committee to consider if the proposed equipment was sufficient for the Town Council's requirements, following liaison with Councillor Pike who had expertise in this field, and to delegate authority to the Events Committee to approve expenditure of up to £500.00 to purchase appropriate equipment.

RESOLVED to approve expenditure of up to £500.00 to purchase appropriate Public Address equipment, funded from the Rolling Capital Fund.

EV/2022/44 OTHER EVENTS

a) Members noted Sunday 16th July as the date for United Service of Remembrance.

b) Members agreed to hoist Commonwealth Flag on 13th March, but with no school's or public engagement.

c) The Mayor asked Members to note Civic events as well as the public events calendar, including the following:

- 3rd March - Mayor's Fundraising Quiz Event
- 12th May - Legacy Tableau private view at Frank Hutchings Community Hall

Councillor Ellen Crumly asked about the status of Fun On The Broadway.

The Mayor explained that it was agreed by Members not to run the event in 2022 and that this was also proposed by Officers for 2023, although it did not mean that this event was lost forever.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____