



Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 24th November 2022 in the Skyrm Room commencing at 7.00pm

63. PRESENT: Cllr. Rachel Goode, Cllr. Robin Cheeseman, Cllr. Craig Monks, Cllr Nigel Corbett, and , Cllr. Terry Beswarick, Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Mr Dominic Faulkner and Mrs Samantha Pearce (Assistant Town Clerk)

64. APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Mr Stefan Nikolov (Head Groundsman).

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS
No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

66. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022
The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 29th September having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

67. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL
An update given by the Town Clerk and noted. Comments were made as follows:

Road Closure

The Town Council's request for closing the section of the A3066 from Prout Bridge through to the mini roundabout had been agreed by Dorset Council and it had been agreed to use Chesil Security to man the closure points. It was recognised that more marshals were needed for the event.

Meeting

A meeting had been arranged for Monday 28th November to discuss final arrangements with all relevant parties.

Market

Cllr. Goode confirmed that the Anonymous Market would provide 13 stalls for the event. Furthermore local charity stalls and Little Groves would also attend.

Beaminster School's Christmas Fair in St. Mary's Church

The Town Clerk confirmed that Beaminster School were going ahead with their Christmas Fair and that she would receive more details at the meeting on Monday 28th November.

Entertainment

The Town Clerk confirmed musical entertainment as follows

- Carol singing with Raucous Chorus
- Live music with the Youth Club band and Phoenix Brass Band
- Background festive soundtrack

The sound system for the evening had been arranged.

It was noted that Council staff would need assistance with setting up the staging etc. and Cllr. Goode/the Town Clerk agreed to reach out for more volunteers.

Santa's Grotto would be set up in Lynden Way by the Town Clerk and others on Thursday 1st. It was agreed to decorate Lynden Way, use the Town Council's festoon lighting, the snow machine and provide music in the area of the grotto to create a more magical atmosphere. Cllr. Corbett would also look in to providing donkeys for Lynden Way.

Santa would arrive to the event in a sleigh made by Council staff.

Christmas Jumper Competition

The Town Clerk explained that the Christmas Jumper competition was now live and a number of entries had been received. Cllr. Goode had secured funding from the Co-op to provide prizes for the competition. The winner(s) would receive a hamper.

Publicity

It was agreed to send a press release to the Bridport News and to increase the social media campaign on the week leading up to the event.

68. INFORMATION SCREEN IN THE SQUARE

Cllr Cheeseman confirmed that he had identified a number of sites within the town suitable for an information screen. Two TV screens had been secured and Cllr. Cheeseman had been working with Mr Kirkman on the project.

It was agreed that content displayed on the information screens should be carefully thought out and a sub group of the committee should work together to provide a clear strategy.

Administration responsibility for the screens was not yet agreed.

69. WELCOME SIGNS

The Town Council had been approached by Dorset Council with an opportunity to look into sponsorship of the town's welcome signs.

As the town's signage was new members did not feel it was appropriate to replace the existing signs but were interested in the possibility of sponsored planters or possibly an additional sponsorship panel under the existing sign.

Cllrs did however feel strongly that any additions to the signs or around the signs should not detract from the existing signage.

Members asked officers to request further details on the proposal.

70. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Mrs Pearce confirmed that the web developer was in the process of developing the new web pages. A photographer had been engaged to provide photos for the new pages.

It was AGREED to look into further outside support for website and social media content.

71. KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Following a discussion it was **AGREED** that the Town Council would approach the Cricket Club with the idea of them hosting a Beacon, bar and BBQ at the Memorial Playing Field, similar to that during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was felt that the event should not be held on the day of the Coronation (6th May 2023).

72 COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Following a discussion it was **AGREED** to reintroduce the Councillors Surgery sessions on the 4th Saturday in every month. It was felt that the sessions should be held with two councillors present at each session. Members felt the surgeries should be informal and friendly and refreshments should be offered to those attending. It was **AGREED** that the sessions be held in the Skyrm Room and the first session would be held on Saturday 28th January.

73. BUDGET

It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** the following sums to the Council's Finance Committee for Community Engagement year 2023/24

Bowl Jam	£1,000.00
Monarch Trail Competition	£ 320.00
King Charles III Coronation	£1,000.00
Website Development & Support	£3,500 plus the 22/23 remaining budget transferred over
Marketing	£6,000.00
Floral display in the Square	£ 400.00
Bunting	£1,200.00
Christmas Lights	£6,300.00
Remembrance	£ 220.00

It was noted that any monies required for the information screens would be taken from the Market House and Tolls budget.

74. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for 26th January at 7pm.

75. THE MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 19.00 ended at 20.45.

Chairman