



Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 29th September 2022 in the Skyrm Room commencing at 7.30pm

51. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Rachel Goode, Cllr. Robin Cheeseman, Cllr. Craig Monks, Cllr Nigel Corbett, Mr Stefan Nikolov (Head Groundsman) and Mrs Samantha Pearce (Assistant Town Clerk)
52. **APOLOGIES**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Chris Turner, Cllr. Beswarick, Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and Mr Dominic Faulkner.

53. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

54. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 5th August having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

55. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL**

An update report was submitted by the Town Clerk and noted. Comments were made as follows:

Small Christmas trees and lights

Cllr. Goode explained that Cllr. Biggs had received an offer from a local contractor to assist the Town Council with the installation of the small Christmas trees and PAT for the lights.

Mr Nikolov felt the assistance would be welcome however it needed to be managed by the Council's Grounds team.

It was **AGREED** that the Christmas Committee should look further into this and should discuss this with the Mr Nikolov and the Council's current electrical contractor.

Road Closure

Cllr. Monks reported that he had challenged the response received from Dorset Council regarding a full road closure of the A3066 for the Christmas Lights Festival. No response had been received to date and Cllr. Monks would follow this up and report back to the Town Clerk.

Staging

Mr Nikolov highlighted the need for volunteers to assist on the evening of the Christmas Lights Festival. Help would be needed with moving the stage from the Public Hall to the Square.

Cllr. Goode confirmed that she would be organising volunteers to help on the evening.

56. BEAMIN' FAMILY FESTIVAL

Cllr. Monks reported that Poundbury Events would be holding their own debrief on the 2022 Beamin' Family Festival. Whilst it was recognised that adjustments were needed it was felt overall that this year's event was well received by the community.

Poundbury Events had expressed a wish to run the event next year and the 22nd July 2023 had been suggested. This date had been chosen by Poundbury Events as it avoided clashes with other big events in the area. In 2023 the Beamin' Festival would start later in the day and would not include a scarecrow judging or Bowl Jam.

It was **AGREED** that in 2023 the event should be a stand-alone event run solely by Poundbury Events and this should not involve any financial outlay from the Town Council or involve Town Council staff. Poundbury Events had been advised to go directly to Mrs Kath Crabb to book out the dates at the pavilion.

Cllr. Cheeseman expressed concern regarding the advertising of this year's Beamin' Festival and suggested that Poundbury Events include a good non digital advertising campaign for the 2023 event.

Cllr. Corbett suggested that the three sided advertising boards should be a permanent feature in the Square.

Cllr. Cheeseman reminded members that he was still pursuing information screens for the Square.

57. SCARECROWS

Mrs Pearce reported that while there had been a huge amount of interest in the Scarecrow trail this year, participation in the scarecrow competition had not been as good as it had been in previous years. Mrs Pearce felt that in 2023 the Council should retain a form of trail but should not run a scarecrow competition.

Members **AGREED** to run a trail only and felt a Monarch themed trail would be appropriate.

Mr Nikolov suggested that the trail was on a wider scale around the town to include some new areas.

Many ideas were mooted including past Monarchs, big decorated crowns and statues but it was agreed to decide the content at a later date.

58. BOWL JAM

Cllr. Monks informed the Committee that he had met with Mrs Tuff from the Prout Bridge Project and one of the topics discussed was the Bowl Jam for 2023. Mrs Tuff had suggested that the Prout Bridge Project put £1,000 towards the 2023 Bowl Jam.

It was **AGREED** that Beaminster Town Council should put £1,000 provision in the budget towards next year's Bowl Jam and it was further **AGREED** that the Prout Bridge Project should take the lead in organising the event alongside Maverick Skateparks.

59. KING CHARLES III CORONATION

It was recognised that the Coronation of the King would most likely take place during Spring/Summer 2023. Discussion took place as to the suitable nature of any celebrations in the town. Beacon Lighting, a Picnic in the Park and a Street Party were all ideas. It was suggested that members of the committee discuss this with friends and family to see what their expectations are and come up with some further ideas for a celebration. It was understood that guidance on suitable celebratory events may also come from Royal Palace. It was **AGREED** that a suitable provision for any celebrations be put in the budget.

60. BUDGET

It was AGREED that budget should be allocated for the following:

Bowl Jam
Monarch Trail
The Coronation of King Charles III
The Website (support and development)
Social Media Consultant
Floral display in the Square
Bunting
Christmas Lights Festival
Remembrance Parade
Information Screen in the Square

61. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for 24th November at 7pm.

62. THE MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 19.30pm ended at 21.19.

Chairman