

BURNHAM-ON-SEA & HIGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Projects Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7pm in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea.

Present Cllr Mrs Keen (Chair)
Cllr Tolley
Cllr Burridge-Clayton
Cllr Cox
Denise Emery – Town Clerk
Tatiana Cant – Town Clerk
Jacqueline Manning – Accounts and Admin Assistant

68/17/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest:
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lawson (unwell) and Cllr Young (work)
Cllr Ms Weavell was not present.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited Jade Parks to give her presentation on BOS ComicCon event to be held in Burnham Baptist Church on 26 August 2017.

- This would be the first BOS ComicCon event to be held in Burnham – it was hoped to make it an annual event.
- ComicCon originated in America and was becoming increasingly popular here.
- The hall and three rooms would be used in Burnham Baptist Church: a mass parade was planned for the hall.
- There would be a DeLorean Car (Back to the Future) and Trotter's Independent Trading (Only Fools and Horses) three wheeler van parked outside to generate interest.
- This would be an all ages event, with arcade games, tournaments with X-box and Playstations, table-top games, face-painting, photo-ops and a large number of stalls selling a range of items such as DVDs, T-shirts and cupcakes. Arcade machines would be free to play and no gambling was involved.
- The cost of the event would be £3678.00 and the organisers were requesting £2500.00 from the Town Council.

Councillors considered this to be an exciting project and it was suggested that the ComicCon organisers approach this Council for £1500.00 and approach Sedgemoor District Council for £1000.00. The relevant grant application forms would need to be completed. PROPOSED by Cllr Burridge-Clayton, SECONDED by Cllr Tolley and AGREED that this proposal would be taken forward to the Policy and Finance meeting in April.

Public Speaking Time – The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public who had registered to speak in accordance with Minute nos. 14/96/TC and 49/97/TC.

Members NOTED the comments from:

Alex Turco who spoke on street lights in Victoria Street.

Two years ago, the Committee had agreed new street lighting via the Tesco project. The street lighting had still not been adopted by SCC, and therefore any defects could not be reported. Two of the lights were currently not working. Mr Turco asked why the Project Manager had not met with County and urged the council to take action.

Denise Emery, Town Clerk, explained that the Project Manager, Paul Martin of Paul Martin Associates, had not yet met with Somerset County Council. She had offered to go to a meeting at SCC with Paul Martin, but in view of her impending retirement, suggested that a Councillor might take on this role. It was suggested that either Cllr Young or Cllr Michael Clarke would be appropriate.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

Members NOTED the comments from Beverley Milner Simonds who spoke on the Farmers' Market:

- She expressed surprise concerning the remarks made by one councillor about moving the Farmers' Market.
- Approximately 2000 people had commented on social media about these remarks and were highly supportive of the market.
- It brought extra business into the town, as many people combined visits to other businesses with a visit to the Farmers' Market.
- It also made use of the events area that had been constructed by the Town Council.

A representative from the Farmers' Market stated that the event was community-minded and attracted visitors.

The Chair brought forward item 6 on the agenda, Farmers' Market in the High Street, for discussion at this point.

69/17/TPC Farmers' Market in the High Street, Burnham-on-Sea

Councillors NOTED the e-mail from Alex Turco and a discussion followed:

- The remarks made by one Councillor had been taken out of context.
- Councillors had monitored the Farmers' Market and had no issues.
- Road closures had been approved for the next year, to allow the market to take place.
- Footfall figures demonstrated that the local population supports the market.

Members expressed their support for the Farmers' Market.

70/17/TPC Tesco 106 Project

Members considered the Town Clerk's report on the completion of the Tesco project and update on the Coastal Community Team (CCT) work.

- 10,000 destination leaflets were to be delivered by Take One Media to collection points ranging from Birmingham to Cornwall. It was hoped the leaflets would be printed by Easter.
- 7 banners had been printed with the words "Welcome to Burnham" for use on the hanging basket columns. The banners were a flag shape, although we had been expecting them to be longer, with a sloping side.
- Victoria Quarter metal sign – a structural survey was to be completed, to confirm that the building to which the metalwork was to be attached could take the load.
- Finance - £900 had been agreed by the Committee for putting up and taking down flags, and £4000.00 was outstanding on the contract for the metalwork. £13,331 remained in budget and the final figure after the above expenditure was anticipated to be approximately £7000.00. This was separate from the Coastal Community Team money.
- There had been a previous plan for Wi-Fi in the Town Centre, and the remaining £7000.00 could be earmarked for this purpose. The budget could be used as considered reasonable by members of the Town Projects Committee.

A discussion took place and members raised the following queries:

- Did we have designs for the banners in the first place? Could we get our money back?
- Where were the banners now?

The Clerk explained that the long banners did provide the possibility for sponsorship, under a licencing agreement. More work needed to be done on the banners, but the Clerk explained that she does not run this project.

The Chair stated that the Committee would take note of what had been said, and would review this at the next meeting of the Town Projects Committee. She RECOMMENDED that councillors earmark the £7000.00 to be used as they thought reasonable. Cllr Burridge-Clayton PROPOSED, Cllr Tolley SECONDED, and all agreed to adopt the recommendation.

The Chair invited Mr Mike Murphy to speak.

71/17/TPC Highbridge History Panels

Members NOTED comments from Mr Murphy:

- The history panel at Asda had been taken down and stored at the back of the shop.
- Refurbishment was needed: Arien Signs could supply a new sign for £1700 + VAT.
- The two other signs were in need of refurbishment at a cost of £150.00 each from Arien, who had all specifications digitally recorded. The other two signs were situated outside Alpha House and the station.
- Would members like Mr Murphy to continue looking into refurbishment of the panels?

Cllr Keen had two questions:

- As former Chair of Regeneration, did Mr Murphy know if there was a legacy from the former regeneration budget?
- Did we have a copy of the original correspondence from Asda giving consent for the sign to be put up?

Mr Murphy confirmed that he would be able to look through the relevant paperwork to clarify these queries.

£1500.00 had not been used from the miscellaneous projects budget for Highbridge. This was the Town Project Committee's own budget and councillors could therefore use these monies, with additional help from Asda, to reinstate the sign.

The Chairman PROPOSED that members delegate negotiations with Asda to Mr Murphy and that the miscellaneous project budget for Highbridge be used towards the signs. If sufficient funding was obtained from Asda, then the miscellaneous budget could support the re-installation of the sign at Asda and the other two signs at the station and Alpha House. Cllr Burridge-Clayton SECONDED this recommendation, which was AGREED by members.

72/17/TPC Letter from St Margaret's Hospice Care

Councillors NOTED the letter from St Margaret's Hospice shop thanking the Town Council for the prize of £10.00 from the Christmas Lights competition. Cllr Keen commented that there had been a lovely Christmas window at the shop.

73/17/TPC Rotary Fingerpost on the Esplanade

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Rotary Club had decided to discontinue this project. It was suggested that the Rotary Club might consider putting three discs on the pavement with a mile marker instead. This would have to be agreed with the County Council.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Rotary Club with this suggestion.

74/17/TPC Dog Bins: Esplanade path to West Huntspill

Cllr Parkes was not present to speak at this meeting. The Clerk reported that she had contacted SDC and they had confirmed that there could be one dog bin at the Apex end of the path and one at the Huntspill end. It would be difficult to put one in the middle, as SDC trucks would have to go up the path to empty them.

The Clerk confirmed that the cost of installing a dog bin would be £200.00. Members NOTED that Cllr Parkes would speak at the next meeting on this subject.

75/17/TPC Fireworks Event 2017

Members commented that the start time of the fireworks seemed to get earlier as the last event in 2016 had started at 6.30 pm. The Clerk explained that this was because of children going to school the next day. Councillors discussed whether the preferred start time should be 6.30 pm or 7 pm and decided that 7 pm would be preferable. The Chair stated that as this was an expensive event, members would not wish to make a recommendation with only four Councillors present.

AGREED: to be carried forward to the next meeting of the Town Projects Committee.

Members NOTED that there had been difficulty in hearing the sound system at the 2016 fireworks and the Clerk stated that this would be discussed with the provider.

76/17/TPC Date for the next meeting of the Committee

Members AGREED that the next meeting of the Committee would be changed from Monday 15 May 2017 to Monday 22 May 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.