

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr R Claydon (Chairman), Cllr K Collins, Cllr June Cordwell, Cllr N Clement, Mr N Dadd (CALGS and Under-the-Edge Arts), Cllr A Kendall, Cllr T Luker, Mrs T McLusky (Beaumont-le-Roger Society), Mr G Phillips (Wotton Arts Association), Mrs P Smith (Fair Trade Town Group), Cllr P Smith, Mrs J Tebb (Chamber of Trade and Wotton in Bloom), Mrs J Walshe (Town Hall Teas and Heritage Centre), Cllr A Wilkinson

In Attendance: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

788. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Canon R Axford, Reverend T Wharin and Mr M Clarke

789. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2015.

Proposed by Cllr Smith and agreed in favour to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2015.

790. Community Plan

A meeting of the Community Plan Working Group has been arranged for 12th November 2015 at 7pm in the Civic Centre, with the aim of refreshing the last plan produced in 2005. Several members of the public had volunteered to assist the five Councillors with this process. Other volunteers would be welcome. The need for a parking survey had been mentioned at the last meeting and Cllr Claydon had found one carried out by Stroud District Council in 2011 which might prove suitable. He would forward a copy to members.

791. Budget

a) The Clerk had distributed a report of budget versus expenditure and anticipated expenditure for the current financial year, which demonstrated a sum of £2500 which had not yet been committed. This surplus was largely due to an allowance made in the budget to employ someone to carry out tidying duties around the town. As these duties were now part of the caretaker role the additional funding was no longer required. It was suggested that some of this surplus could be used to provide signage to/about Wotton for visitors to Newark Park, which might encourage some to visit the town. Newark Park had an average of 150 visitors per day during its opening season but many would be unaware of Wotton's existence. It was agreed to investigate appropriate signage at the ticket office, at the exit and on the grass triangle on the highway. Mr Phillips would talk to Newark Park and the Clerk would contact County Highways. It was also agreed to recommend to Town Council the re-introduction of the Christmas Shop Windows Competition with prizes for First, Second and Third to be £100, £50 and £25 respectively, and with shields for each of the winners to display in their shop windows. Mrs Walshe volunteered to distribute leaflets to the shops to this effect. It was noted that, although there was no Christmas event this year, there would be a late night shopping evening and a Father Christmas grotto.

b) It was agreed to request a budget for the financial year 2016/17 as follows:

Farmers Market	£1000
Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum	£250
Flower Baskets	£275
Christmas Trees	£250
Christmas Tree Grants	£450

Christmas Shop Window Prizes	£175
Wotton in Bloom Watering	£2000

The sum suggested at the last meeting to fund decoration of Old Town Toilets would be included in the Toilets budget heading. Traditionally, the website had been paid for from the Town Regeneration budget but members considered that, with the new website going live shortly, this should now have its own separate heading. A sum for the Walking Festival also needed to be added. Costs would be shared between Town Regeneration and Footpaths but costs were as yet unknown. The Chairman of the Dursley Walking Festival was coming to the inaugural Walking Festival Working Group meeting on 26th November but this was after the budget meeting. It was therefore suggested that he be contacted for advice with regards to funding and that an appropriate amount would then be added to the above budget figures. It was noted that Under-the-Edge Arts were organising a Blues Festival weekend next September and would appreciate financial assistance and they were advised to apply for a grant using the form available on the Town Council website.

792. Farmers Market

The previous meeting had discussed the possibility of changing the Farmers Market to a general market and the Clerk had downloaded a Toolkit produced by NABMA for setting up a local market. The Chamber of Trade offered to explore this in more detail. It was suggested that Rachel Andrews at Stroud District Council could assist with legal/planning implications. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Chairman would meet with the current Farmers Market organiser to discuss this further.

793. Walking Festival

It was noted that the Walking Festival Working Group would meet at 7pm in the Civic Centre on 26th November 2015. The Chairman of the Dursley Walking Festival was to attend.

794. Reports from Partners

a) Under-the-Edge Arts – A report was circulated detailing forthcoming events being held in addition to the regular programme. Arrangements for a Blues Festival next September were taking shape. Links were being forged with Wotton Arts Association.

b) CALGS – The eviction from Coombe allotments was due to come into force on 26th March 2016. A number of measures were being explored to try to retain the allotments. The Town Council had met with the land agents and were getting a valuation for the land.

c) Beaumont-le-Roger – The French visit will be from Friday 13th May to Monday 16th May 2016.

d) Wotton in Bloom – It had been a very successful year and the baskets had stayed up longer than usual into October.

e) Chamber of Trade – They had held a successful breakfast meeting at the Falcon. It was expected that the old bakery building in High Street would be refurbished soon and the Renishaw Old Town site was also undergoing refurbishment. Cllr Wilkinson had attended a very useful look and learn visit to Tetbury organised by Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum and it was interesting to see that they shared many of the same problems with empty shops as in Wotton. He hoped to arrange a similar visit to Wotton in the near future.

f) Town Hall Teas – The Teas have raised over £11000 for the various groups this year. All of the slots for next year have already been filled and there is a reserve list. The new A-boards have worked well but the posters inside them are getting a bit messy. It was requested that these be replaced and the Clerk confirmed this was already in hand. It was also requested that the guidelines for the teas include an instruction to only use blu-tac when fixing posters to the A-boards as sticky tape leaves marks on the Perspex. A piece about the Teas had been included in October's Wotton Directory and this included a thank you to the Town Council.

g) Heritage Centre – The current display is World War II in Wotton and forthcoming displays include Wotton Artists; Manufacturers; and then Churches. The photograph collection is now available to view on a touch screen. They will soon be launching a modified website for which they are getting assistance from Evergreen Computing as part of the Company's charity remit. Facebook communications continue to be successful and help to bring people into the Centre. Fund-raising is ongoing and includes Town Hall Teas, Wotton Calendars and a very successful 1940s night. They have just received a grant from the Association of Independent Museums for much needed conservation materials and have had their museum accreditation reinstated. They are celebrating two anniversaries later this month, namely the 70th anniversary of the Wotton Historical Society and the 21st anniversary of the opening of the Heritage Centre. Unfortunately, a window pane on the Heritage Centre was broken on a Friday evening and will cost £200 to replace which is a big drain on their limited funds. The Heritage Centre will be open on Remembrance Sunday for visitors to view the display.

h) Arts Association – The New Year's Eve concert will be held at 6pm in St Mary's Church. The 2016 Arts Festival will take place from 22nd April to 1st May. Wotton Concert Series are holding their next concert in St Marys Church on 28th November 2015 (not an Arts Association event).

795. Any Other Reports

a) Tyndale Monument – In October 2016 it will be 150 years since the Tyndale monument was built and the Trustees are marking the occasion with a memorial service and a display in the chapel at North Nibley. The Heritage Centre will also have a small display.

b) It was noted that, on a recent visit to Abergavenny, the literature at the venue included one of the Chamber of Trade's Wotton leaflets.

c) It was noted that next year was the 50th anniversary of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it was suggested that the Town Council should consider organising something to mark this occasion. This would be put to Town Council.

796. Dates for Future Meetings

Future meetings were arranged for 8th February 2016 and 13th June 2016.

This completed the business of the Town Regeneration Partnership.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Town Regeneration Partnership