

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 12TH MAY 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Councillor P Smith (Chairman), Councillor June Cordwell, Councillor R Claydon, Mrs T McLusky (Beaumont-le-Roger Society), Mrs S Plant (St Mary's Church), Mrs J Sennitt (Christmas Event), Mrs L Watson (Christmas Event), Reverend T Wharin (Baptist Church)

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

724. Election of Chairman

Mrs Cartigny had resigned from the Town Council and therefore it was necessary to elect a new chairman. The position would be for this meeting only as committee memberships would be reviewed at the Town Council Annual General Meeting the following week. Councillor Claydon nominated Councillor P Smith as Chairman for this meeting. There were no further nominations and it was agreed, all in favour, that Councillor Smith take the Chair for this meeting.

725. Welcome

The Chairman invited members to introduce themselves and welcomed Mrs Plant and Mrs Watson to the meeting.

726. Apologies

Reverend R Axford, Mrs D Moss, Mr G Phillips, Mrs J Walshe

727. Amendment to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2013

It was noted that minute 710(a) of the November 2013 meeting had incorrect information regarding care of the planters on the War Memorial island. This would not be incorporated into the Wotton in Bloom scheme as stated in the minutes, but would be taken over by the Town Council. It was proposed from the Chair, agreed all in favour, to approve this correction.

728. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2014

Proposed by Mrs McLusky, seconded by Councillor Claydon, that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2014 be approved as a correct record. Agreed all in favour.

729. Christmas Event

The Christmas event had formerly been organised by Paula Underwood on behalf of the Chamber of Trade. The road closure had been in Ms Underwood's name and the Chamber of Trade's insurance had covered Public Liability for the event. Ms Underwood was no longer involved with the event and the new organisers, a group of local young mothers who had assisted with the event last year, were concerned that putting one of their names on the road closure application would mean that this person would be personally liable for any problems arising at the event. The organisers asked if the Town Council would be prepared to put its name on the road closure and arrange appropriate insurance. Members asserted that liability issues would not arise from being named on the road closure notice but that insurance was essential. The Town Council had approached their insurers in the past after similar requests, but the insurers would not cover the event unless there was a demonstrable connection to the Town Council. It was suggested that, now that the Chamber of Trade was fully active again, it may be worth investigating whether they may be able to take on these responsibilities. Mr Claydon would pass on the Government guidance on organising festivals to the Christmas Event organisers. It was suggested that public liability insurance should be arranged to cover both the event and volunteers; and that the Market Place in Long Street, or the Town Council's insurers, may be able to provide this. The event is scheduled for Sunday 7th December 2014. It was requested that the Living Crib be incorporated into the event and Mrs Plant would discuss with the organisers how this might be achieved. If the organisers of

the Christmas event could not get the required assistance from the Chamber of Trade then they should contact the clerk to request that the Town Council consider the matter at their June meeting.

730. Towns Teams Project Grant

The Town Council is expecting to receive a grant of £1000 from the Towns Teams initiative, such sum to be spent by 31st March 2015 on festivals within the town. It had been suggested that this year's St George's Day event might be a candidate for funding but the money could not be provided retrospectively due to the conditions of the grant agreement. The 2015 Arts Festival was also not eligible as it was after the cut-off date. Further suggestions included an Under-the-Edge Arts literary event being organised for the Autumn; the Christmas event; the music festival at Synwell. The Town Council would welcome any further suggestions. Applications on the Town Council grant application form, available on the website, would be needed in the first instance.

731. To Consider the Future Aspirations of the Partnership

The Partnership had steered some major projects in the past, most notably the Community Plan, which was published in 2005. More recently, although partnership members had been active within their own groups, the partnership itself had not been involved with any particular projects. Members were asked to consider what they would like to see the Partnership achieve in the ensuing year and whether a fully clerked and minuted meeting was the most efficient way to proceed. Councillor Cordwell wished to see the Community Plan updated and, as part of this procedure, she distributed forms to members to complete and return to the Town Council office. A number of improvements within the town had been achieved as a result of the last Community Plan but there were many aspects still needing to be improved. The Plan would illustrate the challenges facing the town; identify needs; and identify what people would like to see in the town. The Partnership could then look at solutions to these issues. Possibilities such as branding for the town were suggested and members were informed that the Chamber of Trade were producing a new leaflet. The Town Council leaflet needed updating and could include branding. Mrs McLusky had come across a game with a trail map for Wotton and, if it was still available, would bring it to the next meeting. Members had found the Partnership useful as a way to meet representatives of the various groups in the town and to keep up-to-date with the many activities being provided. If the meeting was purely for this purpose then it would not need to be clerked and minuted, but if the Community Plan was to be updated then it was important for the committee to remain more formalised as at present. It was suggested that a Community Plan working group should be established, which could meet as frequently as necessary, and which would report back to this Partnership. The Mayor had compiled a letter to be sent to various organisations within the town for assistance with the Community Plan, as involvement of the wider community was essential to the integrity of the plan. The Terms of Reference for this Partnership were to be reviewed shortly and the current Terms would be sent to members for their input and suggestions. A draft of revised Terms will be included for review on the next Partnership agenda.

732. Reports from Partners

a) Following a series of break-ins at the Baptist Church the culprits had been apprehended. Various measures had been taken with these people with very successful results. The Holiday Club for young people would take place from 23rd – 27th July this year. This is a significant event, often involving over one hundred children. The bike ride up Snowdon raised over £1700 for the skatepark. The recent posters around the town themed 'The Secret' were part of a project to raise awareness of personal faith and any questions or concerns regarding this matter should be taken to Reverend Wharin.

Reverend Wharin left the meeting

b) St Mary's Mothers Union were this year to host the Mary Sumner Day. Each year a different Deanery hosts this event which brings together Mothers Unions from across the diocese. There will be a church service at midday and the event is usually well-attended. It is expected that many of the visitors will explore the town.

c) Beaumont-le-Roger Society have 21 families from France visiting this year. Activities will include a visit to Stratford and dinner at Highfields, where the mayor will be giving a speech.

d) Electric Picture House – This is now under new management and is open seven days a week with extra shows. The assets will always belong to the town and the three directors are having regular meetings with the new management to monitor progress.

e) The Heritage Centre had been awarded a number of grants recently, most notably a lottery grant of £7000; just under £1000 from Stroud District Council to fund their website and phone bill and new flyers to advertise the centre; a grant of £400 to conserve a banner; £500 from the Round Table. They had enjoyed a very successful open morning with 60 visitors and further success with the exhibition of Wotton's Hidden Treasures which saw 200 visitors. They have become affiliated with the Chamber of Trade and the two organisations will participate in a fund-raising event in November tied in with Remembrance Day. They are grateful for the regular monthly Town Hall Teas slot, which is their only source of regular income. They have been given a six months reprieve on their museum accreditation and are being assisted to this effect by their museum mentor Julie Reynolds.

f) Town Hall Teas continue to be successful, with all groups so far this season making over £200 and two groups making over £400. There are only two slots still available for the 2015 season.

733. Any Other Reports

Members were warned of a scam in the manner of realistic-looking letters which appear to be from banks. They ask a lot of personal details with a view to stealing identities. The clue that these are not authentic is that the logos are not in colour. Anyone receiving a letter from their bank requesting such details should check with the branch as to its authenticity. The matter has been reported to the Police.

734. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd September 2014.

The Chairman thanked members for attending.

This completed the business of the Town Regeneration Partnership.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Town Regeneration Partnership