

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Councillor June Cordwell (Chairman), Councillor Clair Galbraith, Mrs T McLusky (Beaumont-le-Roger Society), Mr G Phillips (Wotton Arts Association and Under-the-Edge Arts), Mrs P Smith (Fair Trade Town Group), Councillor P Smith, Reverend T Wharin (Baptist Church)

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

The meeting proper did not commence until 7.55pm when Cllr P Smith entered the meeting and the quorum was thus achieved.

748. Apologies

Rev'd R Axford, Mrs H Brewer, Cllr R Claydon, Mr T Mason, Mrs D Moss, Mrs J Tebb, Mrs J Walshe

749. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22nd September 2014

The Chairman reviewed the Minutes of the September meeting and informed members that a budget of £8000 had been requested to include works to update the website and weeding/tidying measures. Proposed by Cllr P Smith, seconded by Cllr C Galbraith that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2014 be approved as a correct record. Agreed in favour.

750. In Our Towns Funding

The funding for festivals and events from the In Our Towns project, a sum of £1000, has now been received. In view of the delay in distributing the funding the deadline for grant applications had been extended beyond 31st March 2015, so funding may be available for events held during the spring and summer of 2015.

751. Community Plan

a) The Community Plan questionnaires would be distributed to households with the December/January edition of the Wotton Directory.

b) Members were reminded that, as part of the Community Plan process, we would need input from their organisations as to their future plans.

752. Christmas Event 2014

The Chairman read out a report from the organisers of the Christmas event, as follows:

“The Christmas Market plans are well underway for Sunday 7th December. Having overcome the issue with the Event Licence, we have moved forward with booking lots of stalls and entertainments. We also have a good level of support from the local traders, many of whom will be open for an extra day of trading. We have forwarded a communication from Stroud which confirms that we do not require an overall Event Licence for the day. However, individual stallholders or shops who are supplying alcohol at the event would need to apply for their own temporary licence. Alex at the Chamber of Trade has agreed to take on the challenge of organising the Christmas trees for the traders. Yet again they will help to create a lovely Christmas spirit in the street.” Members questioned the position of licence requirements if they were, for example, running a tombola or raffle which included alcohol prizes. The Clerk would contact Stroud District Council and let members know.

753. Farmers Market

The Chairman read out a report from Mr S Carpenter, organiser of the Farmers Market, which detailed advertising arrangements, a new website, regular stalls and which states that the market continues to hold its own against strong competition in the area. The net cost to the Town Council for running the market was approximately £160-£300 per annum. It was noted that the weekly Stroud Farmers Market, which has around 100 stalls, takes producers away from smaller markets. It was also noted that the prices at Wotton Farmers Market tended to be high in comparison with those in Stroud. It was argued that the market is a community asset which is not very costly to the Council and that, as long as stallholders are willing to come, it should be retained. The Clerk was asked to thank Mr Carpenter for his report and to request a further progress report in June 2015.

754. Summer Weeding/Tidying

The Town Council is still considering various options to improve weeding and tidying in the town during the summer and has been in contact with the County and District Councils with regard to a possible joint initiative. It may be that someone is employed or contracted by the Town Council for the work. When all information is known the Town Council will assess the best value option.

755. Mediaeval Market

The Chairman read out a report regarding the Mediaeval Market which is to be held on Sunday 14th June 2015. The organisers have received a grant of £240 from the Town Council's In Our Towns funding to cover costs of road closure and insurance. They are now proceeding with their plans for the event.

756. Reports from Partners

a) Beaumont-le-Roger – The Annual General Meeting will take place on 16th January 2015. They are having a stall at the Christmas event.

b) Fairtrade Towns – They will be having a stall at the Christmas Event.

c) Wotton in Bloom – they will have a stall selling preserves etc at the Charities Fair.

d) Churches Together – They will again be delivering a card to households detailing the services to be held over the Christmas period. The back wall of the cottage at the Baptist Church is being repaired. The cottage itself is proving to be a great resource and is used for Debt Advice, meetings, youth counselling and so on. Planning permission has been granted for a new building to be erected between the current buildings.

Reverend Wharin left the meeting

e) Arts Association – The New Year's Eve concert will take place as usual at 6pm. The Arts Festival will start on 24th April 2015 and numerous events have been organised for the two weeks. This will be festival number 45. The St George's Day event will take place on 25th April 2015.

f) A planning application had been received for Old Town Meeting House to convert the ground floor to a Silver smithy with family residential accommodation above. The smithy would also run courses. This is at the application stage at present.

g) Wotton in Bloom – They have made an appeal for funds through the Gazette and received some donations. The baskets were very successful this year and it is hoped that this will keep the momentum going and funding coming in.

h) Town Hall Teas – The Teas ran from April to November including bank holidays and raised a total of £8187.70 for the various local groups and charities. All the slots for next year are booked and there is a reserve list as well.

i) Cinema – Business has been improving and the cinema is now open 7 days a week. There have been some changes from the volunteer set-up, including the sale of popcorn and showing of Pearl & Dean advertising. The cinema has to be run as a business and make a profit and the final decision for its future will be made next March.

j) Heritage Centre – The Centre is going from strength to strength. The role of one of the volunteers is to apply for grants and a number have been received or are pending. The new overhead projector and screen are up and running. Various fund-raising events have been organised and they are being supported by TSB bank who, when they assist at these events, then double the monies raised. Football is going up and Scout groups, army cadets and school groups now come to the Centre for visits. The Wotton Calendar is this year being produced by the Heritage Centre and is now on sale around the town. They have a successful Facebook following which will hopefully lead to an increase in visitors as well. They will soon have Gift Aid and are awaiting the result of their Accreditation application. Fund-raising is of paramount importance as grants are not available to cover running costs, and this is the biggest concern. New volunteers are always welcome.

757. Any Other Reports

a) A new source of funding, called LAG funding, should soon be available to rural communities and Wotton is recognised as being rural and so will be eligible.

b) Towns Alive – This was an organisation supporting Market Towns but it has now gone into administration.

c) Parking – the Town Council is investigating the costs of upgrading the Tabernacle car park for use by traders.

d) WiFi for the town is being upgraded. The downside is that the green boxes are being positioned in the middle of some of the pavements. The Town Council has no say in where they are placed.

e) The Chamber of Trade produced a new leaflet for Wotton which has been very well received. Members complimented the different and eye-catching look to the leaflet. It was distributed by specialist companies. The Town Council had given a grant towards it.

The Chairman thanked members for attending.

This completed the business of the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee