



Ross-on-Wye Town Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Community, Markets & Tourism Committee**
held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7.00pm
at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor C Bennett (Chairman), Councillor N Gibbs, Councillor Lister and Councillor R Mayo

Ex Officio Member: Councillor V Coker

Substitute Member: Councillor C Utting

In attendance: Mrs R Lewis – Project Officer

There were three members of the public present including Maureen McAllister, Executive Director, Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tourism

CMT/1809 #55 Apologies for Absence
Councillor J Roberts
Councillor Bramer (ex-officio)

Resolved - to accept apologies received

CMT/1809 #56 Declarations of Interest
None

CMT/1809 #57 Dispensations
None

CMT/1809 #58 Public Participation

A resident who runs the Old Court Bed & Breakfast in High Street spoke about the dirty state of the town and how it was affecting tourism. He was concerned about pigeon poo on the pavements, particularly in that part of the High Street where the problem is at its worst. He appreciated that Herefordshire Council were responsible but because of the lack of funds asked if the Town Council would do something about remedying the problem. He added that cigarette butts were also a problem.

CLlr Mayo informed members that a report had been commissioned from a pest control expert to find the best way of removing pigeons and a day's work had been carried out which had resulted in the removal of 40 pigeons. The holes in the town walls were a concern as pigeons were roosting there. CLlr Utting added that as a member of the Tourism Association, she was concerned about the look of the town and suggested that money be put in next year's budget to cover the cost of sorting out the pigeon problem. It was suggested that the Town Council write to businesses asking them to sweep and clean outside their own premises and for pubs to provide waste bins for cigarette ends.

7.09pm *Two members of the public left the meeting.*

Maureen McAllister gave a presentation on the work of Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tourism. Members were given a printout with the details on what she had to say. She was encouraging Town Councils to join (at a cost of £100 per annum) as she felt the benefits were huge for tourism in the member towns.

7.46pm *Ms McAllister left the meeting.*

CMT/1809 #59 Election of Deputy Committee Chairman

Proposed: Councillor C Bennett
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor R Mayo

RESOLVED – to appoint Councillor D Lister to be the Deputy Committee Chairman.

CMT/1809 #60 Community, Markets & Tourism Committee Meeting Minutes - to confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 31st July 2018. [LGA 1972, Sch 12 para41 \(1\)](#).

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Community, Markets & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 31st July 2018 be signed as a correct record.

CMT/1809 #61 Action Review Summary – to receive and review outstanding actions.

Recent actions were up to date. Cllr Utting reported that the Town Team had money which could be used to improve the map boards. The Tourism Association was looking at costs and would be putting in an application to the Town Team for funds. The Amenities Committee would look after the hardware but the CM&T Committee was responsible for overseeing the content. It was suggested that the Town Council write to the four supermarkets to ask for sponsorship for the boards.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

CMT/1809 #62 Applications for Grants

There were no grant applications for consideration

CMT/1809 #63 Grant Funding Update

To receive and note final report from organisations detailing expenditure of the grant funding:

- Ross & District U3A - grant awarded in the sum of £500.00 towards the cost of materials for an embroidery for the town
- Create Ross - grant awarded in the sum of £250 towards the cost of the Busking Festival
- Royal British Legion - grant awarded in the sum of £750.00 towards the cost of a veterans' tea party

RESOLVED – to receive and note the final reports.

CMT/1809 #64 Budget Update

To review the budget information for the year to date (report attached)

Together with the earmarked reserve for the new Christmas Tree lights in Gloucester Road, the balance for the year was healthy. It would be possible to vire some money from the River Festival and Christmas Lights headings to cover the cost of the Battles Over and the Christmas Fayre.

CMT/1809 #65 Battle's Over (with lighting of the beacon) to commemorate the end of WWI

To receive an update on the event to be held at the Prospect

The Project Officer circulated a draft timetable for the evening event. She was waiting for confirmation of the Allegra Choir and a town crier – otherwise all had been confirmed. Stewards will be needed and information and invitations sent to the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor.

CMT/1809 #66 Christmas Fayre and Light Switch on Event 2018

To receive a report and update from the Working Group

i) Lights

Proposed: Councillor R Mayo
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor D Lister

RESOLVED – to recommend to Full Council to purchase three sets of tree lights for Gloucester Road trees at a cost of £2,578.20 from the EMR for Christmas Lights. In addition the committee recommended that the cost of installation be met from the EMR provided it was not greater than the balance.

ii) Tree

A 10 metre Christmas Tree had been offered to the council free of charge. Members asked that the Project officer and Sites Manager go and look at it and if it was suitable to accept it.

iii) Update on Fayre

Arrangements for both the Fayre and the switch-on were in hand. To date 27 stalls had been booked, free carparking was sorted and the road closure arranged. New attractions were organised including a helicopter from the West Midlands Air Ambulance and Hereford Hospital Radio.

iv) Switch-on

The Ross Gazette were organising publicity to find a “special” person or group to switch on the lights. This would be advertised in the Gazette. Nominations would be sent to the Gazette of people who had gone above and beyond for their family, friends or a charity or done something fantastic within the community. The winner would be chosen by representatives of the Gazette and the Working Party.

CMT1809 #67 Markets

To receive a report from the Markets Working Group

The council members and Town Clerk had met to consider the use of Town Team money which had been given for the purchase of a trailer and market stalls. It was no longer viable to have these but Cllr Bennett wished to apply for the money to purchase gazebos for the market instead.

The group had also discussed the possibility of a Vintage/Retro/Craft Market to be held on a Saturday. This could be done in partnership with the Tourism Association who had already implemented a successful Vintage Trail in the town.

It was hoped to have a further meeting of the Working Group to include some market traders soon.

The Project Officer was asked to invite a representative from the Tourism Association to the next meeting.

CMT1809 #68

Bands in the Park parking

To consider putting retractable bollards across the entrance to Caroline Symonds Gardens to prevent vehicular access being blocked

The Project Officer explained a possible solution by putting in retractable bollards. The cheapest type were £99 each for heavy duty removable bollards. Cllr Mayo asked for further quotes to include more aesthetically pleasing bollards, particularly as the area had recently been refurbished by the Ross Lions. Cllr Lister agreed to look into this further and report back to the next meeting.

CMT1809 #69

Correspondence

To consider the following:

- Possible website for Bands in the Park – Cllr H Lerego

The Chairman felt that this was unnecessary to have an additional website for Bands in the Park as we have our own website which we should be encouraging the use of as well as the Council facebook page and a Bands in the Park facebook page. While it was free, it would involve considerable extra work by either councillors or staff.

Members were all in agreement and it was decided not to pursue the offer.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26pm

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Chairman

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Date