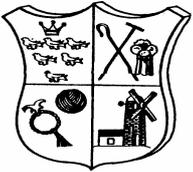


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham, on Monday 5th December 2016 at 6.00 pm.

CC/16/6/67

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, a period of not more than 15 minutes will be assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the assembly, or ask questions on matters relevant to responsibilities under the direction of this committee, at the discretion of the Chairman.

Mr R. Morton of “onlinecornershop.com” and a regular trader at the Hailsham Market spoke in respect of the Christmas market held on Saturday 3rd December. He stated that he was surprised by the attitude of some members of staff putting up the market stalls. He had complained that his stall was not in its usual place and was not the same size as usual, so he was unable to unload all of his stock. Mr Morton advised that his gazebo was also very low and stated that when he asked about this he was advised by one of the staff that he could put the gazebo up himself – Mr Morton was very unhappy about this response. He stated that many other regular traders were not satisfied with the organisation of the market.

The owner of Brambletigh, a regular market trader, stated that he was not placed in his usual spot and many of his regular customers did not know he was actually at the market and he therefore lost a large amount of trade. He complained that the staff started taking his gazebo down at 4.00 pm even though he asked them to allow him some more time to pack his stall up. He also asked why there was a problem with running cabbelling to some of the stalls. He advised that in spite of all the above however he did consider that the event went well.

The Chairman advised that all traders at the event will be sent a questionnaire which will allow them to provide feedback on the event. Feedback on the Christmas market event will be discussed in January’s meeting.

Councillor P. Holbrook asked:

- i) how much did the traders pay for their stalls?
- ii) Why didn’t the fruit and vegetable man move his van, which was causing an obstruction
- iii) How many new traders were present at the event

Councillor M. Laxton told the Committee she was considering organising “yarn bombing” for next Christmas, which involves yarn being decorated around posts/lamp posts in North Street and the High Street. She stated she will organise this herself and obtain permission from East Sussex County Council Highways for this. Councillor Laxton also suggested a late night shopping event for next year. K. Giddings advised that the Town Council has tried to organise such an event for this year, all High Street shops and businesses were invited by letter to participate and open late at the christmas light switch on and also through the Chamber of Commerce, but there was little participation. It was suggested that the option for a combined event be put on the questionnaire to be sent to all the traders from the Christmas market.

P. Holbrook advised that the advert for the Christmas market in the Wealden Eye had the wrong date advertised.

68

Committee members present

Councillors: Mrs B. Beckett (substituting for L. Collinson), R. Grocock, Mrs B. Holbrook (substituting for G. Blake Coggins), Ms. A. O'Rawe (Chairman) C. Triandafyllou (Vice Chairman)

Other Councillors present:

Councillor Mrs M. Laxton, P. Holbrook

Other members present

R. Piggott (Bonfire Society), N. Povey (Hailsham FM), J. Seale, Mrs D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings

69

Apologies For Absence:

Committee Members

Councillor Mrs A. Clarke, G. Blake Coggins, Mrs L. Collinson, N. Collinson, Mrs S. Cottingham

Other members

G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), J. Cullen (Hailsham Community College), B. Pratt (Farmers Market)

70

Declarations of Interest

None were received

71

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Communities Committee meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

72

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 7th November 2016

It was noted that all resolutions would be discussed throughout the meeting

73

Local Skills Gap

C. Triandafyllou advised that J. Cullen had been organising the Hailsham Community College students to approach local companies in person.

74

Hailsham and Hellingly Movement & Access Strategy

Members were advised that the road improvements in Vicarage Lane and George Street would be finished by the end of April 2017.

75

Hailsham Forward

C. Triandafyllou advised that East Sussex County Council are no longer involved in Hailsham Forward. He stated that Hailsham Forward is trying to organise a conference with owners of businesses in industrial areas in January or February next year.

76

Christmas Light Switch on

D. Sinden advised that a good number of visitors attended the Parish Church at both the light switch on and the Christmas market and she thanked the Council for advertising the open church.

J. Sealde praised the switch on evening and members agreed the coloured lights looked very effective along with the new waving santa motif and changing colour stars.

Members asked what happens to any old Christmas lights and whether the Council receives any money back for them? K. Giddings advised she would look into this and report back to the next meeting.

77

Christmas Market event 2016

It was agreed that feedback would be obtained from the traders at the Christmas market and discussed at the next meeting. Members of the public would be asked for feedback through the Town Council's website.

J. Seale reported that disabled access was difficult between the stalls and that a member of the public on a walking frame had difficulty with access. The Chairman advised that she had been on her mobility buggy at the event and had not had any difficulty manoeuvring around the stalls. Members discussed spreading the stalls out along the High Street and the problem of achieving this as the High Street traders do not want stalls in front of their shops. It was suggested that stalls could be placed in more of the new road bays if a road closure takes place in the future.

N. Povey arrived at 6.40 pm

J. Seale suggested an improvement on the market would have been to have more stalls selling Christmas goods, less cake stalls and more charity stalls at the event.

R. Piggott advised that the Bonfire Society did not attend the event because they were unable to fill in the form on the internet and did not have a paper copy of the form to fill out. K. Giddings stated that if the Bonfire Society had contacted either herself or Michelle Hagger at the Town Council offices they would have ensured a hard copy was sent to them.

Members asked for T. Ryland to be invited to the next meeting in January.

N. Povey stated that the event was very busy from 10.00 am to 2.30 pm and was quieter later on in the afternoon. He reported that the snow globe was a very popular attraction at the market but considered it could have started earlier, at 10.00 am rather than 11.00 am and finished at 3.00 pm rather than 4.00 pm.

78

Bonfire Society

R. Piggott advised that preparations were already in place for next years event.

79

Hailsham Festival

There was no further update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 16th January 2016.

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities