

PRESENT: Cllr. Kirsty Bright
Cllr. Ernie Butler
Cllr. Richard Butler
Cllr. Anne Mitchell
Cllr. Pat Strack
Cllr. Farida Turner

in attendance: Joel Charin, Town Clerk
Ash Tadjrishi, Events Co-ordinator

One member of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G Franklin and Cllr. J Heywood. Cllr. E Butler substituted for Cllr. G Franklin. Cllr. F Turner substituted for Cllr. J Heywood.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June 2009 were approved and signed as a true record; except to note that Cllr. A Mitchell was present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. R Butler declared an interest in the discussion of the Fireworks, as he is an employee of the company which installed the sound system.

4 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY

It was agreed to recommend to Council adoption of the terms of reference without modification.

5 FIREWORKS

Some members of the public had reported to members difficulties in hearing the sound system. Also, some members wondered if traffic should be supervised as it leaves the area at the end of the display. It was agreed that consideration be given in future to having a designated meeting point.

There was some discussion about expanding the number of retail outlets at the Fireworks display but it was agreed that the event must remain one in which parents would not feel pressured by children to spend money.

Cllr. E Butler asked if the fireworks had been booked for next year. The Events Co-ordinator replied that he had only been in post four days but would be researching the issue shortly.

6 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Mayor stated that she had e-mailed all councillors reminding them of the free events on Sunday between 13:00 and 17:00 hours, which in addition to the switching on of the Christmas lights at 16:00 hours, will include an ice rink, choir performances at All Saints Church and refreshments.

With regard to Christmas lights, Cllr. E Butler addressed the Chair and said he was very concerned to have heard that the Mayor had entered into an arrangement with a member of the public who she had asked to check the lights on a daily basis between 11 November 2009 and 6 January 2010. This had committed expenditure without consultation with any committee. Cllr. E Butler added that he had confirmed with the electrical contractor responsible for installing the Christmas lights that such checks were conducted by themselves and therefore, in Cllr. E Butler's view, further expenditure was a waste of Council money. Cllr. E Butler added that no one can spend Council money without consulting Council.

Cllr. R Butler explained that as a professional electrician, he could assure members that checking of the lights is a specialist task.

Cllr. A Mitchell stated that she believed the Mayor was taking undue criticism over this issue and reminded all present that councillors are volunteers. The Mayor should have been properly advised by Council employees.

The Clerk informed the committee that he had been told of this arrangement by the Mayor only after she had made the commitment to the member of the public and that he immediately informed the Mayor that this would require approval by the GMC but the Mayor had told him this was 'not necessary'.

Cllr. S Parnell asked if the member of the public was a 'reasonable man' who could therefore be prevailed upon to reconsider the agreement. A number of those present confirmed that he is a reasonable man and Cllr. E Butler suggested that with the committee's consent, he approach the member of the public, who is known to him, and ask if he would agree to end the agreement with immediate effect.

It was **agreed** that Cllr. E Butler speak to the gentleman concerned as soon as possible with a view to terminating the agreement forthwith.

7 BBC Band Concert

The Mayor stated that arrangements for the BBC Band Concert were in hand.

8 Tom Costello's concert

The Mayor stated that this will be held in Fairway Hall.

9 All Saints Church centenary

The Mayor stated that she believes the town council should be involved in the celebrations of the centenary and that there would therefore be budgetary implications. A choir of a hundred plus fifty others are visiting from the USA to give a concert. Cllr. A Mitchell stated that the church has been very good to the council over the years and perhaps the centenary could be included in the Festival; other councillors concurred.

It was **agreed** that the Events co-ordinator would talk informally to Rev. Tim Warr and invite Tim to participate in a future meeting.

It was **agreed** to propose to Council the allocation of funds in the next budget towards the cost of All Saints Church centenary celebrations.

It was also **agreed** to hold an Entertainments Committee meeting prior to the Festival Advisory Committee meeting on 25 February 2010.

10 First Impressions

It was **agreed** to cover this item in part II.

11 100 years of Guiding

The Mayor outlined the significance of this area to the development of the Girl Guides and reminded members that the town council had provided the Scouts with a grant of £1,000 on their centenary. Cllr. A Mitchell stated that the same amount should be granted to the Guides as to the Scouts.

It was **agreed** that the Events Co-ordinator will contact the Girl Guides to investigate options for including the Girl Guides in the Festival.

It was **agreed** to propose to Council the allocation of £1,000 in the next budget for a grant to the Girl Guides towards the cost of their centenary celebrations.

12 Plaques

The Mayor stated that there is money allocated in the budget towards commemorative film plaques. It was **agreed** that the Events Co-ordinator will investigate suitable opportunities for an appropriate ceremony.

13 Elstree Studios

The Mayor explained that the former Entertainments Officer, Paul Welsh, had lead the campaign some years ago to save Elstree Studios from demolition and so it would be appropriate for the town council to be associated with any anniversary celebrations.

It was **agreed** to support any celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Elstree Studios.

Some discussion of the Festival followed as Any Other Business.

A Mitchell no. of floats disappointing; maybe need support sooner. Cllr. E Butler suggested budgeting £100 per organisation towards the cost of their float and suitable publicity to ensure the availability of this money is known to the At the suggestion of Cllr. F Turner it was **agreed** that the Events Co-ordinator will investigate what help with vehicles and drivers can be given to organisations wishing to enter a float in the parade.

The Mayor outlined the attendance levels at various Festival events, noting amongst others that the baby show, emergency service stations and Families Day were well attended. The Mayor questioned whether support should continue to be given to the poetry reading as most of the children did not appear to be from Elstree or Borehamwood.

In response to a question Ash Tadjrishi was invited to outline any ideas that he had which may have budgetary implications.

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was moved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity of which might be prejudicial to the public interest.

14 CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 21:30 hours.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....