

MINUTES OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020

In attendance:

Councillor: Mrs E. Chilcott JP (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: N. Jones, Mrs R. Matthews, Mrs N. P. Parrish.

Officers in attendance: Mrs R. Tucker, Mrs C. Challenger, Mrs R. Cronin, Mrs A. Ambrosen

404	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Councillors Mrs. J.E. Jones and N. Simons.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the apologies be recorded.</p>	JW
405	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor R. Matthews declared an interest in item 4 as a member of Pontypool Friends.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.</p>	JW
406	<p><u>Poet of Pontypool/Photography Competition</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the Poet of Pontypool/Short Story and Photo Competition. The Chair explained that both competitions had been held virtually this year. Both were advertised over the Council's Social Media platforms and the Council's Website.</p> <p>The Chair stated that 38 photo entries were submitted which was the highest amount of entries the competition had received since it was launched. The Chair of Council stated that the standard had been very high this year.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the winning entries were currently displayed on the Council's Social Media site and on the website plus the Events Officer had displayed all the entries in the Council Chamber window. The Chair of the Council and Chair of Events stated that the window display was excellent.</p>	

The winners received the following:

1st - £50 amazon voucher and canvas of winning entry
2nd - £40 Amazon voucher and canvas of winning entry
3rd - £30 Amazon voucher and canvas of winning entry.

The Chair explained that the Poetry/Short Story competition had received 48 entries over 5 age categories and that this was a very good result for the competition.

A member asked if the Council could have advertised the competition better among the younger age group as the entries in that category was low. The Events Officer explained that at the time of advertising most schools were only open to Key Worker children and Torfaen Play Service had been playing a vital role in schools at that time. Torfaen Play Service had been contacted and asked if they could use the competition as an activity for children to complete in schools and the competition had been advertised on local schools Twitter accounts which in turn was sent to parents subscribed to those school accounts. A member stated that schools were under a lot of pressure during the time of advertising so may not have had time to help children to enter.

The member thanked staff for their explanations and asked that when advertising future competitions could nurseries be contacted with the details.

RECOMMENDED: (i) that the information be noted.
(ii) that in future poetry/story competitions nurseries be sent the information.

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407 **Events Suggestions**

Members received a report on event suggestions received.

The Chair asked that the Committee look at each suggestion in turn and decide which suggestion would be viable and whether the event could take place before Christmas or in the new year.

The Committee decided the following:

Councillor Nick Simons suggested: a drawing competition - could be to celebrate the NHS, or

images of Pontypool heritage. **The Committee decided that this was a good suggestion and should be looked at in the new year. All agreed.**

Councillor Mrs Elaine Chilcott suggested:

- Competition on private outside lights and trees for Pontypool and District Residents. **The Committee decided that this would be a good event to organise. The competition would include lights and trees decorated outside the home. The competition would be advertised online and would be an application competition with entrants filling out a form to enter. If an influx of entries are received then judges would narrow down the entries to finalists and then visit the finalists homes to judge. Winners would win Amazon vouchers - 1st prize £100, 2nd prize £60 and 3rd prize £40. The judges would be decided at a later date. All agreed.**
- Virtual Spelling Contest with children from different schools over Teams. **A Member stated that it was a good suggestion but could be difficult to organise especially virtually and could be difficult to make it a fair competition. The Chair suggested that this be looked at next year. All agreed.**
- Christmas verses to go with the winning Christmas Card. **Members agreed that this was a good idea and could be merged with other suggestions received to make a “design a Christmas card and verse” competition and the winning entry would be the Council’s 2021 Christmas card. It was agreed that the competition be held this year and advertised online. The winning entry would be printed later in 2021. A member stated that the winning cards outline could be used as the 2021 Christmas Cavalcades brochure colouring competition. Winners would receive Amazon vouchers - 1st prize £60, 2nd prize £40 and 3rd prize £30. All agreed**

- Hold another Photography/Poetry Competition over winter months on Christmas theme. **Members agreed to launch this competition next year.**
- Treasure Hunt in Schools. **Members agreed that this suggestion whilst good would not be viable.**

Councillor Mrs Lizzie Hunt suggested:

- The classic design a Christmas card competition - could be adapted to a "colour a Christmas card" for younger residents or a Winter scene photo competition with a local theme - **Members incorporated this idea with the design a Christmas card and verse outlined above.**
- Outdoor location hunt - photos are taken in urban and rural locations in all wards, maybe with the equivalent of a "where's wally" character. Entrants must give the GPS coordinates/postcode for each and the one with the most or those that are closest wins. **Members thought this was a good idea but could be difficult to implement. A Member stated that people will need access to a location monitoring device or mobile phone. The Committee agreed to defer the item till next year.**
- Environmental identification quiz - a detailed picture of local wildlife is drawn and the person who can identify the most species wins (potential link to Gwent wildlife trust) – **The Chair stated that the Council holds an Environmental Quiz each year and this suggestion followed the same theme. The Events Manager stated that this idea should be deferred until next year when the Council would know if they would be in a position to hold the Environmental Quiz as normal. All agreed.**
- Carol competition - individuals all record the same carol and send in the recordings to be judged – **A member stated that this could be**

incorporated with the another suggestion of Pontypool's favourite Christmas Carol. It was agreed that a poll take place over the Council's Social Media platforms asking members of the public what their favourite Christmas Carol is and then a competition be held for members of the public to send in videos of themselves singing the song that wins the poll. The Competition can be advertised online and the winners receive Amazon vouchers - 1st prize £60, 2nd prize £40 and 3rd prize £30. Sarah Campbell Horner could be asked to judge the singing competition. All agreed

- What is Pontypool's favourite Christmas song? - an online poll on Facebook and our website. Could have several rounds - a long list, a short list and a final vote. **Members agreed to incorporate this idea with the idea suggested above.**
- Spot the ball - a picture or pictures of Pontypool RFC with the ball removed. The person with the most correct/closest wins. **Members agreed to defer this idea till next year.**

Councillor Mrs Gaynor James and Councillor Mrs Rose Matthews suggested:

- A Halloween Best Dressed Business for Pontypool Town Centre. This would be like the Christmas Best Dressed Window competition which is still scheduled to happen despite the Cavalcade being cancelled. **Members agreed this was a good suggestion. A Member stated that advertising this would need to happen quickly. The Events Officer explained that the same format could be used as the Best Dressed Christmas Business whereby an application form is sent out to local businesses in Pontypool Town. The judges would only judge the businesses that complete and return the form. A discussion took place regarding judges and prize money and it was agreed the competition would**

only be open for small businesses and the prizes would be as follows: 1st prize £300, 2nd prize £200 and 3rd prize £100. Judges would be decided at a later date. All agreed.

Councillor Ben Rapier suggested:

- **A Christmas card design competition. Members agreed to incorporate this idea with the Christmas verse competition outlined above.**

The Committee received information about a competition being held in the Abersychan Ward by a Member where residents in that Ward could enter their outdoor Christmas lights into a competition with the chance of winning vouchers. The Member would use his LVF money to purchase the vouchers. The Committee asked the Clerk why this item was on the agenda, the Clerk explained that this information was just to be noted. A Member asked if this competition could conflict with the Council's Christmas light competition. The Chair explained that the competitions would be strictly separate but residents who enter the Abersychan Ward competition would not be excluded from entering the Council's competition.

RECOMMENDED: (i) that the event suggestions be implemented as outlined above.

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Christmas Lights

The Committee received a verbal report from the Clerk regarding Christmas Lights for the Garndiffaith/Varteg Ward. The Clerk explained that in Varteg there was a natural tree where the lights were hung for several years but the lights had broken and the tree had become very unattractive and the lights needed replacing, therefore lights have now been provided on lamp posts in the same area. The lights for the Varteg area would be leased and would be put against the Christmas lights budget.

RECOMMENDED: that the information be noted.

Youth Festival

The Committee was asked to note that the Youth Festival due to have taken place this year in Bretten had now been rescheduled to be held in Bretten in 2021. Pontypool Community Council will not host the next Youth Festival until 2024.

RECOMMENDED: that the information be noted.

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