

**MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2020**

In attendance:

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

Councillors in attendance: Mrs G. E. James, N. Jones, Mrs N. P Parrish,
B. Rapier

Also in attendance: Councillors Miss L. Clarkson, J. Killick

Officers: Mrs R. Tucker, Mrs C. Challenger, Ms J. Wright, Mrs A.
Ambrosen, Mrs R. Cronin

49. **Apologies**

Apologies received and accepted from Councillors Mrs R. Matthews and Councillor N. Simons

50. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. E. James, N. Jones and Mrs N. P. Parrish declared an interest in any item on the agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: that the declarations of interest be recorded.

JW

51. **Eisteddfod**

The Committee received a report on the Eisteddfod 2021. The likelihood of the Eisteddfod taking place in 2021 in the old format is highly unlikely therefore the report stated how the event would take the following format if it went ahead:

The Council would continue to send out the set pieces and the Key Stage 2 children would choose one instrument to play for the instrumental category. The event must adhere to COVID-19 guidelines that are currently in place regarding singing and the use of some wind instruments. However,

these guidelines change frequently and if the Council agreed in principle to the event going ahead the COVID-19 guidelines could be looked at in the new year and the event be adapted to abide by them. The schools would send in their entries online. The judges would be sent the entries via e-mail as the problem with a virtual competition is that all kind of technical things can go wrong, such as loss of sound, loss of picture, poor connection, so this would be the best way to judge. It was therefore agreed that the schools be contacted to arrange a virtual meeting after all the judging took place in order that they announce all the winners in all the categories and the overall winner.

The Art competition would still go ahead in its current format as the entries would be sent into the Council and displayed and judged in the Chamber. This format would be safe. The theme for the Art would be "Happiness". A member queried how the theme of "Happiness was chosen". The Chair of Events stated that this theme had been chosen some time ago due to the dark times of 2020, so they wanted something uplifting.

The Eisteddfod entry deadline would be Thursday 18th March 2021. The winners will be announced after the Easter Holidays.

Categories could include:

Solo Singing
Solo Recitation
Group Recitation
Choir
Folk Dance
Instrumental (Key Stage 2)

The following schools have stated that they would be interested in entering the virtual eisteddfod as long as COVID-19 guidelines were adhered to:

Ysgol Panteg
Ysgol Bryn Onnen
Penygarn
Griffithstown
New Inn
Garnteg
George Street
Cwmffrwdroer (tentative)

Padro Pio

In relation to costs the amount of £1250 would be needed for vouchers for the event. Last year love to shop vouchers were purchased. The breakdown of the vouchers are as follows:

Solo Entries: 1st - £20, 2nd - £15, 3rd - £10
Group Entries: 1st - £30, 2nd - £20, 3rd - £10

Foundation phase winners receive a £200 cheque and Key Stage 2 winners receive a £200.00 cheque therefore total cost of vouchers and cheques would be £1637.50 with £500.00 needing to be put aside for any judging costs to be incurred. A member asked what the potential judging costs would be. The Finance & Events Manager stated that there may not be any; however there also needed to be money available in case there were costs incurred.

Total cost: £2137.50. It was unanimously agreed that this amount be increased to £3000.00 in order to accommodate unforeseen expenditure for the Eisteddfod.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the information as outlined at the meeting and in the report be noted.

(ii) the Eisteddfod budget be set at £3000.00

(iii) that the Council holds the event online as outlined above with the exception of Art Entries which will be judged in the Council Chamber the normal way subject to COVID 19 guidelines.

52. **Update on Autumn/Winter Events**

The Committee received an update on Autumn/Winter Events 2020 as follows:

Halloween Best Dressed Business Competition:

Winners were announced as

1st – Salon 68

2nd - A Cut Above

Joint 3rd Angelwoods Residential Lettings and Property Sales and Osbourne Lodge Nursery.

Monetary awards were £300, £200 and £50.00 each respectively. It was pointed out that Angelwoods Residential Lettings and Property Sales had matched funded the £50.00 awarded to them for third place and donated £100.00 to charity.

Pontypool's favourite Christmas Carol Poll

The Poll consisted of 5 songs as follows:

The Holly and the Ivy
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Little Donkey
Silent Night
Joy to the World

The winner was Silent Night.

Carol singing Competition

This competition would be running from 9th November until 23rd November with two categories: solo and group entries. The prizes will be Amazon vouchers of 1st £60.00, 2nd £40.00 and 3rd £30.00 respectively. Individuals and groups to record the same carol 'Silent Night' and send in the recordings via e-mail. Judging would be undertaken by Sarah Horner-Campbell.

Design a Christmas card and write a Christmas verse competition

The competitions would be open to all Torfaen residents and would run from the 13th November until 10th December. All card design entries and verse entries can be sent in via e-mail. The Chair of Events stated that there should also be the option for entrants to be able to send them in by post as not everyone is on e-mail. She added that she was pleased to see that the Press had advertised both the Carol Singing competition and the Design a Christmas Card/write a Christmas verse competitions. The Finance & Events Manager stated that anyone could send a picture of anything relating to Christmas it did not just have to be a religious theme.

Pontypool and District Residents Outdoor Christmas light Competition

The competition is open to all residents of Pontypool. Residents will be asked to send in a photograph of their lights via e-mail. The Chair of Events asked that the option also be given for post entries as per the previous competition. The competition runs from the 24th November to 15th December. The Leader stated that anyone of any faith could send a picture in of their outdoor Christmas lights.

Christmas Best Dressed Window Competition

This event is not new for 2020, but despite the Cavalcade being cancelled this year, this competition will still run. All small businesses of Pontypool Town will be invited to enter. The Leader made reference that when the entries were sent out by post for the Halloween competition some of the shops and none of the market traders received the entry forms. Mrs AA informed the meeting that they were aware of this issue and it was agreed that Mrs AA and Mrs RC in liaison with the Leader and Chair of Council would hand deliver the entry forms this year. The Leader added that for the last five years she had awarded the prize money out of her LVF. This year it was agreed it had been agreed at the last Events meeting that the prize money would match that of the Halloween best dressed business competition, so 1st - £300, 2nd - £200 and 3rd - £100. Judges would be the Leader and three members of staff.

Total Budget for all above Events - £1920.00

A member made a number of references in relation to the Community Council being inclusive of all religious groups and to this effect it was agreed that in the new year information be sourced in relation to what events different religions celebrate at different times of the year in order that the Community Council could be more inclusive and let them also know that the Community Council had window space available if they wanted to use it for display purposes. It was agreed that as it was too late this year for a multi-cultural Christmas window display that this be arranged for 2021.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the information in relation to the events be received

(ii) that the Committee confirm the prize money for the Best Dressed Business for Christmas Competition.

(iii) that information be sourced in the new year in relation to other religions.

53. **Art Competition**

The Deputy Leader informed the meeting that in liaison with Julian Davenne he had asked him what he thought about children being encouraged to do a picture or two about children at play as part of the play packs that are distributed. This could then form a competition run by Pontypool Community Council, this would mean that not only promoting the Council but that all entries received could go up in the market or in shops around the town and they could be judged by whoever. The winning twelve would then go into a calendar for 2022 produced by Pontypool Community as obviously it is too late for 2021 now. As this would be an additional competition to the other events/competitions already outlined it was agreed that the total spend for all new Autumn/Winter Events 2020 be increased from £1920 to £2500. The Committee unanimously agreed to this request and the increase in the budget.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that an Art Competition as outlined above be held in conjunction with Julian Davenne with the art theme being “children at play”

(ii) that the Autumn/Winter Events 2020 budget be increased to £2500.

54. **Photography/Poetry Competition**

The Committee was asked to consider holding another Photography and Poetry Competition in the New Year due to how popular they had been earlier in the year with a high amount of entries in both categories. It was agreed to advertise in February with the theme unanimously being agreed as “Spring and New Beginnings” for both photography

and poetry with judging taking place at the end of March/April.

RECOMMENDED: that another photography/poetry competition be held in the New Year as outlined above with the same theme for both photography and poetry - “Spring and New Beginnings”.

Chair of Events

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