

**MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2019**

In attendance:

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

Councillors in attendance: Mrs J. E. Jones, N. Jones, Mrs R. Matthews,
N. Simons

Also in attendance: G. Davies

Officers: Mrs C. Challenger, Ms J. Wright

133 **Apologies**

Apologies received from Councillors M. Ford, Mrs K. Arthur,
N. Byrne, Mrs G. E. James, R. Mills and Mrs N. P. Parrish.

RECOMMENDED: that the apologies be
recorded.

134 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor N. Jones declared an interest in any item on the
agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: that the declarations of
interest be recorded.

JW

135 **Party in the Park**

The Committee received a detailed debrief report on Party in
the Park and the minutes of the feedback meeting held on
the 3rd September 2019.

The Finance & Events Manager informed the meeting that
the feedback from all parties/organisations involved was
that it had been extremely successful. In addition there had
been extremely good public feedback from the event with a
lot of families saying that it was good to see that there were
a lot of free family entertainment which helped families to
have a lovely day without the expense, and of course the
weather was good.

The Event Safety Manager, Mr M. Bendell of Vibe Creative Ltd was responsible for the Health & Safety for the event and there had been no problems.

A member asked the Finance & Events Manager if it had been onerous undertaking Party in the Park. She confirmed that it had been but it had also been very fulfilling and rewarding and had obviously promoted Pontypool Community Council. To this effect it was recommended that subject to Full Council approval that the Council takes on the Party in the Park event in 2020.

It was unanimously agreed that the remaining balance be placed in a separate reserve marked Party in the Park separate from any other budget headings and that the budget for Party in the Park 2020 be considered at the Budget Day.

The Chair Events concluded by thanking the Finance & Events Manager for all her hard work in organising and managing the Event along with Event Officer, Mrs A. Ambrosen and all staff who attended on the day.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the information in relation to Party in the Park 2019 be noted.

(ii) that the Council takes on Party in the Park event in 2020.

(iii) that the remaining balance be placed in a separate reserve budget heading marked Party in the Park and the budget for 2020 be considered at the budget day.

CC/
Staff

CC

136 **Youth Festival/Conference 2019**

The Committee received a detailed report on the Youth Festival/Conference 2019. A member made the point that although he had been against twinning in the past the way it had been organised this year through the working party, the Youth Council and it being primarily youth led and with the detailed reports from the event and the Conference and a budget breakdown he felt much more encouraged and

optimistic going forward for future Youth Festival/Conferences.

The Chair of Events thanked the Assistant Clerk who had taken lead responsibility for the event in the absence of the Clerk and Mrs A. Ambrosen the Events Officer for all the hard work in producing a successful youth festival/Conference and the rest of the staff and the Clerk for their support and attendance over the event. In addition she asked that the Deputy Leader and Vice-Chair of Events be thanked for all the hard work they had undertaken in respect of the Conference, one being the facilitator and the other Chairing the Conference which led to a very successful conference. The Chair of Council felt that the theme for the Conference mental health was a crucial subject matter going forward.

The Assistant Clerk informed the meeting that two of Pontypool Youth Councillors were presenting to Torfaen's Full Council meeting the following Tuesday on the outcomes of the conference in respect of mental health.

Just like Party in the Park it was unanimously agreed that the remaining balance be placed in a separate reserve marked Youth Festival/Conference 2023 separate from any other budget headings and that the budget for the next Youth Festival/Conference be considered at the budget day.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the information in relation to the Youth Festival 2019 be noted.

JW

(ii) that future Youth Council Festival/Conferences held in Pontypool be held over 5 days instead of 7 days.

CC

(iii) that the remaining balance be placed in a separate reserve budget heading marked Youth Festival/Conference 2023.

CC

(iv) that an item be placed on the budget day to consider budget provision for the youth attending Bretten in 2020.

JW/

(v) that the Youth Festival/Working party continues to meet in

WP/
YC

the future to discuss and approve all recommendations made in respect of youth trips abroad and in Pontypool.

(vi) that the Council approves sharing the Pontypool outcomes and recommendations with other tiers of local government.

RT

137 **Christmas Cavalcade**

The Committee received minutes of the Christmas Cavalcade Working party meeting held on the 6th August 2019.

The Finance & Events Manager explained that the bollards outside The Emporium on Commercial Street have been permanently fixed. As the horse and carriage exited the parade via this route, concern was raised over the possibility of the route being a viable option this year. However, after speaking to the firm they have confirmed that it would be possible to turn the horse and carriage around and leave via Crane Street.

In respect of Entertainment Johnno the magician and balloon modeller had been booked, the Bell Ringers, masquerade face painting, fun fair, Mad Mel's Disco, Characters

The Finance & Events Manager clarified that there was £12000 in the budget for the Christmas Cavalcade with £2767.40 remaining at present. Enquiries had been made in respect of having reindeers on the day but the cost was £1200.00. A member felt that as this was 10% of the overall budget, this was excessive which was supported by members. It was agreed that Greenmeadow Farm be contacted to see if they was a possibility of them providing animals for the day. Also it was agreed that Councillor N. Byrne be contacted to see if there was a possibility of his band performing on the day as they would like to try and encourage more teenagers/young people to attend the day and felt this would be a good draw. It was also agreed to invite the Youth Council to give ideas. It was further agreed that enquiries be made with any gospel choirs within the area to see if they would be able to participate on the day.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the minutes of the Christmas Cavalcade Working Party be received and approved.

(ii) that the Finance & Events Manager in liaison with the Events Officer progress action as outlined above.

CC/
AA

138

Christmas Trees/Lights

Members received a report on the siting of a Christmas tree in Abersychan. It was proposed and seconded that the Christmas tree at Talwyain which is vandalised every year be re-sited at the paved memorial garden in the centre of Abersychan. The Finance & Events Manager informed the meeting that as long as permission was granted by the Highways Department then this would not be a problem.

In respect of the Christmas Lights the Finance & Events Manager stated that as the Council no longer has a unit in which the Christmas lights can be stored whilst they are awaiting erection and dismantling, it means that an alternative location must be sought. Unfortunately it has not been possible to empty the existing unit yet due to so much task force equipment being stored there, therefore it is necessary to hire containers this year and the cost will be approximately £150.00 a month for 3-4 months. Originally she thought that one container would be sufficient, however after speaking with SSE she stated that two containers may need to be hired. It was agreed that the Finance & Events Manager see if the container(s) can be hired for two months in the first instance before hiring them for a longer period.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the Christmas tree at Talywain be resited at Abersychan subject to approval.

(ii) that the Committee approves the hiring of a container(s) as outlined above.

RT/
CC

139 **Grants Presentation Evening**

The Committee received a report on the next Grants Presentation Evening. It has been arranged for Thursday 24th October at the Log Cabin, Penygarn for 7.00 pm. The grants approved at the recent Policy and Finance committee will be awarded plus a few others confirmed earlier in the year. A buffet will be available on the evening. The following will also be awarded on the evening

- Grant Aid
- Testimonials
- Photo Competition Awards
- Grants not awarded in July

RECOMMENDED: that the information in relation to the next Grants Presentation Evening be noted.

RT
AA

140 **Poet of Pontypool**

Members received a report on the Poet of Pontypool 2019. There were a total of 7 senior entries and a total of 15 junior entries. The amount of entries for the competition has dropped over the years and only one school Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw have participated despite all schools being asked to partake. Taking this information into consideration the Committee is asked to consider the future of the event and recommend ways to improve uptake. Some ideas were that the Poet of Pontypool and the Photography competition could be merged into one event and be held in Pontypool Museum where the Poet of Pontypool used to be held over several years as this would also be promoting the museum. There was a suggestion that the events/competitions be offered to a wider target audience such as all of Torfaen, however it was felt that the events should stay within the Pontypool area as members felt that the Community Council is there to serve the residents of Pontypool and as such money should be put back into the community.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be received and noted and consideration be given in the future to combining the Poet of

CC/
AA

Pontypool/Photography competition.

141 **Photography Competition**

Members received a report on the Photography Competition. The closing date was Friday 30th August 2019. The theme was History and Heritage in Pontypool. There were a total of 11 entries. Judging took place on Wednesday 11th September 2019. The Judges were Mr and Mrs Payek who run the Abergavenny photo club. The finalists will be invited to the Grants Presentation Evening on Thursday 24th October where the winner will be announced. The prizes are:

1st - £50.00, 2nd - £30.00 and 3rd £20.00. In addition each will get a canvas of their entry.

The amount of entries have remained around the same for the last few years.

Taking this into consideration and what was discussed in the previous item it was agreed that the two Events Officer in liaison with the Finance & Events Manager hold a meeting to come up with ideas to consider ways to promote more interest in the Poet of Pontypool/Photography Competition as well as new ideas; some suggestions made at the meeting was maybe a Talent Competition. It was further agreed that the Council's website/social media be used to ask members of the public what ideas they would like to see the Community Council progress and the Youth Council be asked to see if they had any ideas that the Community Council could develop and these be incorporated as part of the report. In addition if any members had any ideas to inform the Finance & Events Manager.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the photography competition be received and noted.

(ii) that the two Events Officers in liaison with the Finance & Events Manager hold a meeting as outlined above and a detailed report be brought back to the next Events meeting in November.

Chair of Events

CC
AA

