

Minutes of a **MEETING** of the **EVENTS COMMITTEE** held at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014** at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Golightly (**Chairman**) and Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Brownson and Lethbridge

**Also Present:** David Anderson, (Town Clerk)

**EC.7/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L. Zair.

**EC.8/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

**EC.9/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**EVENTS PROGRAMME 2014**

**EC.10/13 FOOD FESTIVAL 2014**

Members noted that the 2014 Food Festival Event had been formally approved by Durham County Council and would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Provision was being made for 160 stalls with a focus on regional produce, although traders from further afield would also be present. The Festival footprint would include the Market Place and Auckland Castle. The bowling green within the Castle would be used as picnic area with the possibility of some catering provision and also children's entertainment appropriate to site, i.e. there was to be no large/heavy equipment that may damage the green.

Auckland Castle would be open to the public to showcase their facilities and plans for future development.

Park and Ride would operate once again from Bishop Auckland College. The College were considering opening to showcase their catering courses and facilities.

**AGREED:** That the information be noted.

**EC.11/13 MUSIC FESTIVAL/PROMS IN THE PARK**

Discussions were ongoing with Bishop Auckland College regarding the Music Festival. It was noted that Bishop Auckland Football Club was to host a 'Wannasee Festival' featuring a number of tribute bands on 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The Football Club was to be contacted to discuss the possibility of hosting a joint festival with involvement of the College and Town Council

The possibility of the Proms being held at Auckland Castle was being pursued with Auckland Castle Trust.

**AGREED:** That the information be noted.

**EC.12/13 YOUTH AWARDS COMPETITION**

Detailed discussion took place with regard to the operation of the Youth Awards Competition. There was agreement that the Award required refreshing to capture the initial intention which was to generate projects that would enhance the experience/skills/creativity/enjoyment of young people and create a lasting benefit.

It was suggested that the Youth Council Committee be requested to review the Youth Award project.

**Signed:** .....  
**Chair**

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Youth Council Committee be requested to review the Youth Award Competition.

**EC.13/13 BISHOP AUCKLAND IN BLOOM COMPETITION**

Consideration was given to arrangements for the Bishop in Bloom Competition and in particular how the competition council be improved to encourage greater participation.

Consideration was given to the locations in which entrants to the competition should be allowed. Initially the competition was open to private homes and businesses within the Town Council's boundary, however this had been extended to outlying areas as a number of complaints had been received from people who lived just outside the Town Council's ward boundaries, but regarded themselves as living in Bishop Auckland.

Various suggestions were made to improve the current competition including:-

- The possibility of a local garden centre / DIY store offering a discount voucher to entrants of the competition, and perhaps donating a prize.
- The possibility of bringing various flower shows under a single competition in a suitable venue, e.g. Bishop Auckland Flow Show.

Consideration was also given to the judging and presentation of awards. It was felt that a new judge should be sought. Various ideas were considered including asking Mr and Mrs Ruffer to judge. An approach could also be made to local experts such as the botanical gardens, Durham, or a local horticultural college.

**AGREED:** That the above ideas be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**EC.14/13 WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS**

Consideration was given to suitable ways to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

It was suggested that an approach be made to St Anne's Church with a view to holding a commemorative service to mark the occasion in an appropriate manner. It was thought that the Mayor could give a suitable reading at the service.

**RECOMMENDED:** That St Anne's Church be approached with a view to hosting a commemorative service to mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

**EC.15/13 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2014**

Discussion was given to the arrangements for Christmas celebrations 2014. Although the Christmas lights switch on had been an excellent event, members felt that the 2014 celebrations should take a different approach.

A number of suggestions were made to make the celebrations more inclusive by relocating festivities to the Market Place and perhaps having a Christmas Market, Choirs, including Bishop Auckland Schools, together with ancillary entertainment and attractions.

An approach was to be made to Auckland Castle Trust with a view to working together on this event.

**AGREED:** That a meeting be arranged with Auckland Castle Trust to explore the possibility of collaborative working.