



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tourism Committee Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:	East Ward:	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor J Hellyer (sub. for Cllr K Hind)
	South Ward:	Councillor Ms R Clarke (Town Mayor)
	North Ward:	Councillor J Gordon
	West Ward:	Councillor C Hawkins
IN ATTENDANCE:		Mrs L Dixon-Chatfield, Town Clerk's Asst 3 x Members of the Public

001 **TO ELECT A NEW CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Ms Clarke nominated Councillor Mrs Gubb for the position of Chairman, Councillor Mrs Gubb was happy to accept.

Councillor Hawkins nominated Councillor Lawrence (who was not present). The Clerk had received an email from Councillor Lawrence stating that he was happy to stand as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Hawkins withdrew his nomination.

Proposed by Councillor Ms Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hawkins, and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Gubb is appointed as Chairman of the Tourism Committee for the coming year.

(Vote – For: 3, Against: 0, Abstentions: 1)

002 **TO ELECT A NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Mrs Gubb nominated Councillor Lawrence for the position of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Lawrence had indicated in an email that he was happy to accept.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Gubb seconded by Councillor Ms Clarke, and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Lawrence is appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Tourism Committee for the coming year.

(Vote – For: 3, Against: 0, Abstentions: 1)

003 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor K Hind (North Ward) – personal.

Councillor D Bushby (North Ward) – personal.

Councillor P Lawrence (South Ward) – personal.

004 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

005 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Three members of the public were present, one of which wished to speak about Item 13 – To discuss the email regarding the continuation of Bideford Bike Show on the Quay.

She explained that the Bike Show organisers are in talks with a number of venues, none of which will include the event being held within the Town. But nothing had been decided as yet. The reason for this is the increased costs to keep the event within the Purple Guide and car parking charges.

006 **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Gubb and seconded by Councillor Hawkins, the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 4, Against: 0)

007 **SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**

In order for the public and members to discuss Item 13 on the agenda, the Chairman proposed to suspend Standing Orders. Seconded by Councillor J Hellyer.

RESOLVED: To suspend Standing Orders for Agenda Items 13.

(Vote – For 4, Against: 0)

008 **TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS AN EMAIL FROM A BIDEFORD RESIDENT REGARDING BIDEFORD BIKE SHOW.**

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from a Bideford resident requesting that this Council considers taking on the organisation of the Bideford Bike Show in order to keep it in Bideford.

Members of the current Bike Show organising team were present and explained their rationale for taking the event out of Bideford. Most of this being costs for the infrastructure in order to conform to the Purple Guide. In short the costs have been prohibitive to the original reason for putting on the Bike Show which is to raise funds

for charity. They further explained that if they were to take the costs forward to the next year, out of the money brought into the event, they would have less than £1k for charity/ies.

The Chairman asked Councillors for their thoughts.

(Councillor Gordon joined the meeting.)

Councillor J Hellyer noted that the event is far too big for this Council and its resources and he sees that the Bike Show does not fit into the Council's portfolio of its own events and functions. Members agreed. Bike Show members pointed out that they were not requesting that this Council take on the Show.

There was further discussion regarding logistics, venues and the impact (if any) on the Town traders but it was considered that this was negligible as many traders do not open on Sundays.

The Chairman reminded members of the agenda item and proposed that Tourism recommend not to take on the Bike Show.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ms Clarke, and

RECOMMENDED: That this Council takes no further action regarding organising the Bideford Bike Show.

(Vote - For: 5, Against: 0)

009 **RETURN TO STANDING ORDERS.**

The Chairman proposed a return to Standing Orders, seconded by Councillor Ms Clarke, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting returns to Standing Orders.

(Vote - For: 5, Against: 0)

010 **TO DE-BRIEF ON D-DAY 80 BEACON LIGHTING.**

The Chairman was pleased with the organisation of the event and felt it was a great success.

Members discussed the event noting that there was also a Beacon Lighting at Appledore which seemed to be very busy.

Councillor J Hellyer asked why Beacon Lightings are held at the Pollyfield Centre, the Clerk explained that it is the highest point and previous Beacon Lightings have been held there, she added that the infrastructure and facilities are all on site too.

Councillor J Hellyer felt that the beacon is not seen from Pollyfield Centre and that perhaps in the future other venues could be considered.

The Chairman pointed out that this could be discussed further on int the agenda under Item 11.

All members felt that the buffet, the bands and organisation was a vast improvement on the previous Beacon Lighting which was largely due to the Pollyfield Centre

Committee making a huge effort. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Pollyfield Centre.

011 **TO DE-BRIEF ON BIDEFORD FAIR AND THE MAYOR'S PARADE.**

The Chairman had received excellent feedback about the event, including the Procession and the Parade.

All members felt that including the Mayor's Parade in the event had been a positive move.

The Procession

Councillor Ms Clarke had wanted the Procession to go the length of Mill Street and turn into Bridgeland Street, she felt that there were residents and traders in the further half of Mill Street who would have missed the spectacle.

Councillor J Hellyer pointed out that the pavements are narrow along Bridgeland Street, making it difficult for the procession to stay off the road – this would result in needing a road closure.

The Clerk explained that there had been a meeting beforehand between the Town Cryer, Mr Mike Harper (Bideford Youth Pipes and Drums), our Head Ranger and the Deputy Town Clerk to find the most suitable route. Turning off into Cooper Street, she added, takes the procession neatly into Jubilee Square for the Town Cryer to make a cry to a larger audience.

Councillor J Hellyer also added generally the route is well known to the public and is advertised so that many of the people from the second half of Mill Street and Bridgeland Street can go to the Quay to watch it.

Mayor's Parade

Again, members considered that this was a valuable addition to Bideford Fair and with a few adjustments would be worth keeping as part of Bideford Fair.

The Clerk suggested the Chairman attend the Wash Up meeting that had been organised by the Deputy Town Clerk for Wednesday 26th June at 7pm. She would give the details to the Chairman.

Bideford Fair

The Chairman was pleased with the variety of attractions and considered it to be one of the best Bideford Fairs. The addition of the Mayor's Parade brought people to the Fair earlier than usual which was great for the early attractions and the stall holders. They were pleased with all aspects of the organisation of the event.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Miss L Lowe of South West Event Management Solutions.

Members discussed continuing with the Mayor's Parade as part of Bideford Fair.

Proposed by Councillor Ms Clarke and seconded by the Chairman, and

RECOMMENDED: That the Mayor's Parade is kept with Bideford Fair and that a formal Civic Service in the Church is arranged for later in the year.

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 0)

012 **TO UPDATE AND PUT A PROGRAMME IN PLACE FOR BIDEFORD'S GOT TALENT.**

The Chairman asked the Clerk for the updates that she may have. The Clerk had the following in place:

- Bar Provision – The Silk Lounge
- Stage Provision – Abbotsham School (to be confirmed)

She had sent letters requesting sponsorship and had, so far received vouchers to the value of £200 and one decline, there were five more responses to come through. Further she suggested the Chairman call an interim meeting with the Councillors who had not been at this meeting and with Miss Lowe in order to set up a proper plan and schedule. She pointed out that the auditions are on 12th July which is just over two weeks away.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to look at dates when Miss Lowe would be available, preferably next week.

The Clerk confirmed with members that the entry price would be £5 for 14 years and over, with under 13's free of charge. She added that the Council now has a card reader for taking card payments, although it does take 2.5%.

Councillors J Hellyer and Hawkins asked the Clerk to mention to the Town Clerk that Sum-up is a cheaper set up and most of the town traders use it because it is more reasonable.

The Clerk mentioned that last year's feedback included improving on the stage backdrop. Members discussed some kind of lighting on the backdrop. The Chairman would be happy to facilitate this.

013 **UPDATE ON CHUDLEIGH PICNIC.**

The Chairman asked for updates. The Clerk would have the licence ready for signing within the next week (by the Chairman) and she confirmed that the portaloos were booked, Upfront Radio, Swiss Miss Bakes, Hog Roast, Burton Activity gazebo and the sweets for the kids were all booked. She was not sure about Hocking's Ice Cream van. She asked for suggestions for other stands, stalls.

Members discussed other ice cream vendors but the Chairman wanted to check with Councillor Bushby before going further.

014 **TO DISCUSS IDEAS FOR VE DAY 80 BEACON LIGHTING (8TH MAY 2025).**

The Chairman asked members for their ideas. The Clerk explained that the Pageant Master had sent through some preliminary guidelines:

VE DAY 80 – 8TH MAY 2025:

- Raising of a special VE Day Flag at 9am
- Town Cryers undertake a Proclamation at 12 noon
- Lighting of beacons at 9.30pm

- Depending on the weather to encourage holding community and family parties in the street, in town, church and village halls, pubs, clubs and hotels, as well as in front and back gardens during the early evening.
- The eating of fish and chips throughout the day too, to continue our nations 'tribute' to the fisherman that still fished the seas, constantly having to avoid the mines laid around our shores, and the prowling German submarines sent to sink our shipping etc, along with the farmers and the Land Girls that toiled the fields keeping our nation fed throughout the dark days of WWII.

The Clerk added that registration would be early next year and that this Council had been participating in these National Beacon Lightings since the 1990's and it would be good to carry on the tradition of following the Pageant Master's Beacon Lighting guide.

The Chairman asked about booking the Liberty Sisters again, the Clerk had already tried (immediately after D-Day 80) but they were already provisionally booked but would pencil us in in case they had a cancellation.

Councillor J Hellyer would be keen to look at alternative suitable locations. Members discussed this and the following ideas were suggested:

1. The Quay for the Beacon Lighting and facilitate the Town Hall as a venue.
2. The Pannier Market and use the space outside to light a beacon, using the Hall for the cadets to put on a display, have the Town Band and the Youth Pipes and Drums and other entertainment. Bring in a caterer and a bar.
3. Light the Beacon at Pollyfield and hold the celebrations in the Pannier Market.

The Chairman thanked members for their ideas and noted that she would like to hear more ideas and some from those who were currently not present. She asked the Clerk to add the subject to the next agenda.

Quite possibly no Liberty Sisters

015 **TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE TOWN CLERK.**

Members had received the Town Clerk's items prior to the meeting and the Chairman went through them.

Replacing Heritage signs with something more holistic to include the Heritage Harbour status and a new map. Town Clerk looking at costings. Will come through the Tourism Committee. **Members noted this.**

Looking at replacing the brown signs on Heywood Roundabout, updating. Town Clerk looking at costings which currently stand at £8k – £20k. Again will come through the Tourism Committee. **Members noted this.**

Ice Rink not dead in the water, Town Clerk looking at ways this can be done. Do the Tourism Committee members have any ideas?

Members updated Councillor Gordon as he had not been a Councillor at the time the Ice Rink had been discussed.

- Whilst Councillor Bushby was not present at the meeting he had sent through an idea regarding this subject. He suggests erecting a large marquee next to the Burton in Victoria Park, similar to the one he and the Town Clerk visited in Bath. Perhaps this could be implemented by working in partnership with Torridge District Council.

The Town Clerk is working with TDC and Traders for other ideas for a major attraction in Bideford over the Christmas period (early December onwards). Traders are looking at an event on 14th December to include the Pannier Market. **Members noted this.**

016 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

The Chairman informed members that the next meeting would be Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 6.00pm but as this would be after Bideford's Got Talent there would be an informal meeting next week. The Clerk would be in touch with members.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance. and the meeting concluded at pm.

Signature of Town Mayor:Date:

Signature of Chairman:Date: