



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tourism Committee Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: East Ward: Councillor Mrs J Gubb (Chairman)
South Ward: Councillor Ms R Clarke (Town Mayor)
North Ward: Councillor D Bushby
Councillor J Gordon
West Ward: Councillor P Lawrence
Councillor C Hawkins

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L Dixon-Chatfield, Town Clerk's Asst

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

Councillor K Hind (North Ward) – personal

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

No declarations were given at this point in the meeting.

031 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

032 **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Lawrence and seconded by Councillor Bushby that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For:5, Against: 0)

033 **TO DE-BRIEF ON CHUDLEIGH PICNIC.**

Members received the post event analysis and queried the Indirect/Direct Labour entry, asking what it was for and why it is included. They noted the comments that had been made in the analysis and agreed that the queue for the food was slow moving. They also noted that there were fewer stalls than last year.

The Chairman pointed out that the event was designed to be an afternoon where people could meet and relax, and the Councillors could mingle with everyone. She was cautious for it not to be on the scale of Bideford Fair.

Members agreed that the main point of the event was to bring the ETW community together and show that this Council provides for them as well as the West side of Bideford – the Chairman pointed out that there had been much criticism in the past of this happening.

Members discussed the food offering for next year and agreed that it would be good to provide something hot but that it was time for a change. After some discussion a BBQ was agreed, on a commercial scale. The Chairman and Councillor Bushby would make enquiries.

Overall members agreed that the event was relaxed and enjoyable, with the weather being kind. Members had a brief discussion on contingency plans should the weather be poor next year and considered purchasing or hiring a large gazebo but decided against the idea as bad weather will not encourage attendance.

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

Members noted the ideas already put forward from the previous meeting and the Chairman called upon them for further ideas or expansion of those put forward regarding the venue. They discussed using the Pannier Market, as it is a Council venue, and making the evening about a Bring and Share supper with tables set up in a street party style. With a bar, food outlets, music and a dance floor, it was a strong contender although there would be costs involved ie hire of the Hall, costs for the Rangers to help with setting up, decorating and then re-setting the Hall.

Members then discussed the Pollyfield Centre and the hard work the volunteers had put in to make it a success. There had been some doubt over the charges and this was in the process of being resolved by the Chairman with the Pollyfield Committee. Members discussed which venue to use and were encouraged to make a decision as plans needed to be put in place as a matter of high importance.

The Chairman asked members if they were ready to vote on which venue to use.

Proposed by: Councillor Mrs Gubb, seconded by Councillor Lawrence and

RECOMMENDED: That the VE Day 80 Beacon Lighting is held at the Pollyfield Centre on 8th May 2025. Subject to costs being agreed.

(Vote: For: 4, Against: 2)

The Clerk advised members that there had been an update in the plans and that the event would include everyone singing “I vow to thee my country” at 9.30pm. She suggested

that perhaps Choirs could be introduced and she would be in contact with the St Mary's Church Choir leader who also leads the youth Choir, "The Treblemakers".

Members agreed that the Pipes and Drums be invited as well as the Town Band. The Clerk asked about further entertainment, as The Liberty Sisters had been pre-booked elsewhere immediately after D-Day 80. Councillor Bushby suggested Tamsin Ball, who had been involved in a previous Beacon Lighting. The Clerk agreed to contact Miss Ball.

035 TO DISCUSS IDEAS FOR OTHER EVENTS

The Chairman asked for updates on the ideas put forward at the last meeting:

Tractor Run (2025) - Town Centre

Councillor Gordon suggested that this would need to be held nearer to Christmas but it was too late to organise for this year.

Councillor Bushby had a contact who has a vintage tractor – he would make enquiries. He pointed out that this would probably be less than a Farmer's event and more of a Collector's Event.

Members discussed a date and the start / finish. No road closure was necessary. There would be a prize for the Best decorated and lit tractor. Other categories could be introduced as plans progressed.

Members all agreed that this type of event, whilst spectacular, was not enough on its own and would need to be part of another event taking place in the Town Centre. Indeed, the participants would want it to be part of another event. Perhaps a Late Night Shopping evening which could, with the Tractor Run, encourage Traders to organise an event.

Jigsaw Puzzle Day/Event (2025) - Pannier Market

Councillor Lawrence advised that he has access to the contacts of the group who had organised the Torrington event. He would need to contact manufacturers of puzzles and a competition would be good for the fastest puzzler – sponsored by the manufacturer. Puzzlers would pay to enter and the takings be donated to the Mayor's Charity.

Councillor Lawrence suggested that the first Sunday in October would be a suitable time to hold the event. He would update the Committee further.

Cream Tea Festival (2025) - Pannier Market

Councillor Lawrence felt that this event should be expanded from Cream Tea Festival to Afternoon Tea and Cream Tea Festival, this would make a bigger and more interesting event. To be held the third weekend in May.

He would look at what had been organised before, when the event was cancelled due to Covid.

Toy Fair – Pannier Market

Councillor Lawrence had been speaking with the owner of Hadoken, a Games and Cosplay outlet in Market Place, who was keen to put on an event of this type. The third week of November had been discussed.

Railway Festival & Model Train Event

Councillor Bushby had spoken with one contact who has Model Railway interests and would speak with another in Bideford as well as Tim Steer of the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.

036 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman informed members that the next meeting would be Tuesday 29th October at 6.00pm.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance, and the meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.

Signature of Town Mayor:Date:

Signature of Chairman:Date:

