

MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE – CARNIVAL DE-BRIEF – HELD ON 12TH. JULY 2016.

Present : Councillor Z Hammond (Chair)
Councillor C Erasmus (Vice Chair)
Councillors W Baber, J Weeks, J Criddle, G Hale, D Davies & M Veater

Ruth Stockley (Local Churches Group)

1. *Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from Councillor J Edwards & Sarah-Kate Ackerman (Caerphilly C.B.C. Events Team)

2. *Declarations of Interest*

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3. *Carnival De-Brief*

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Councillor Jim Edwards taking issue with the situation of the burger van on carnival day, it being sited just 6 feet away from the front door of his café, and albeit having paid his staff decided to close his shop on the day. He had also queried whether the burger van had paid for his pitch.

In all he was not too happy, but stated it was not about money, but supporting the Blackwood Carnival as a businessman.

The Clerk advised Councillor Edwards that this would be a definite Interest, and as such if he attended the meeting would have to declare his interest and, therefore, take no part in the discussion.

The Clerk admitted the siting of the van had been unfortunate, but if the event was held at the same venue next year we would learn from our mistakes. He informed him the burger van had paid £100 for the pitch as in previous years, and stated he felt that given the weather and crowds, business at his café would have been brisk. He also informed Councillor Edwards that on the whole comments had been very favourable, but any negatives identified would be discussed and taken on board in readiness for the future.

Councillor Edwards further responded by saying a lot of people had complained that buses were not running on the day, and that advertising had been very weak, stating 4 days before the event was an error considering the time we had to order them. Furthermore, others had said there was little entertainment for children. He thought a more business approach to any event would help and that we have to move on as its not the 1960's anymore.

He also placed on record his thanks for all the hard work put in by those involved.

In response to the issues raised, members pointed out that the running of buses were out of our control, and presumably had been considered by CCBC as part of their Beach Party weekend over the past years.

In respect of advertising, posters and fliers had been available from 23rd. June, a week or so later than promised due to the printer moving premises, but that whilst posters/ banners may not have been as prominent as some other years, the event had been well publicised in local schools and via social media.(The 4 days prior to the event mentioned by Councillor Edwards could not be commented upon as we weren't certain to what it referred)

There had been a full day of entertainment planned around children, kindly organised by the Local Churches Group, and members disputed the claim made.

Furthermore, members present were at a loss regarding the assumption of a more business approach being helpful and the comment of not in the 1960's anymore.

Some members present were critical of the way Councillor Edwards had approached and questioned the Deputy Mayor on the Saturday regarding various issues relating to the carnival the following day.

The Clerk then referred to an e-mail received from Sarah-Kate Ackerman (Caerphilly C.B.C. Events) who thought the event had worked really well, but offered the following where improvements could be made –

Order more radios

Have everything needed from Caerphilly C.B.C. ie. gazebos, bins etc. before the event so there was no waiting for their site crew

Maybe more music in the parade

Try and encourage more participants in fancy dress (which you probably do anyway)

In response, the lack of radios was not seen as a major issue of concern, albeit this would be re-visited. Members agreed fully that gazebos, bins etc., would be best delivered to site by 8.00am., to avoid any unnecessary delays in setting up, and that more music and fancy dress participants would greatly improve the parade.

The Chair stated she felt that for a first attempt the parade had worked reasonably well, but given this first years experience there were areas we could and should improve on – perhaps extending the parade the whole length of the High Street, but was positive that sitting down earlier with Caerphilly C.B.C. events team and planning positioning of rides, stalls etc. in the High Street would greatly benefit the parade.

Councillors G Hale, W Baber & D Davies reported they had received positive feedback regarding the event, albeit several people had apparently assumed the event was on the Saturday. All present agreed that next year, if we continue with this format, better joint advertising with the Caerphilly Borough Beach Party will be required.

It was generally agreed that the entertainment on offer was varied and of high quality, showcasing to a large extent the talent on offer locally with dance groups and local musical theatre groups.

The Clerk pointed out that with a much smaller area available, the programme of entertainment on offer had attempted not to overlap, thereby ensuring no act was competing with another throughout the afternoon.

The children's entertainment provided by the Local Churches Group had proved very popular, but Ruth Stockley queried whether in future it might be possible to include same on the main stage, and members agreed this should if at all possible be accommodated.

The only other issues mentioned were the unfortunate closure of the Bus Station toilets before the end of the afternoon, and the fact that whilst we had paid for the site to be cleaned of litter at the end of the afternoon, there had been several instances of glass having to be cleared at the start event on the Market Place.

All in all, those present believed the event had been a success, albeit there were improvements that could be made, and that the venue should be considered for future years.