

## ***MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15TH. FEBRUARY 2016.***

***Present*** : Councillor Z Hammond ( Chair )

Councillors J Criddle, J Edwards, W Baber, D Davies, M Veater MBE & P Cook

### ***1. Apologies for Absence***

Apologies were received from Councillors A Farina-Childs & C Erasmus

### ***2. Declarations of Interest***

No Declarations of Interest were recorded at this point

### ***3. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee held on 28th. October 2015.***

It was ***resolved*** the minutes be received

### ***4. Matters Arising***

There were no matters arising

### ***5. To Receive the Report of the Task & Finish Group on the Future of the Carnival***

It was ***resolved*** the Report be received.

The Clerk reported that the Civic Centre Site had been blocked off by several large boulders preventing access to the car parks & grounds, and seemed to justify the decision taken by the Task & Finish Group to plan for the carnival at a different venue.

Councillor M Veater took the opportunity to inform members that Memorabilia from the Offices had been rescued and will eventually be on display at the Libanus Chapel Community Centre.

### ***6. Carnival 2016***

The Chair reported that she, Councillor A Farina-Childs and the Clerk had met with Paul Hudson , Caerphilly C.B.C. Events Organiser to discuss the possibility of holding our Carnival on the same weekend as the proposed Blackwood Beach Party, and concentrating our event on the Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. hopefully at the Market Square.

Paul had been very supportive and enthusiastic and promised to work in tandem with Town Council and assist wherever possible, albeit we would probably still have to submit separate risk assessments for our particular element.

He saw no problem in trying to ensure a Carnival Parade walked through the town at a pre-arranged time and said his existing stewards would be able to assist its safe passage.

It was also queried that if ASDA wanted to become involved, perhaps the Dragon Circe might also be used.

Members were concerned that since the event would now be 4/5 weeks earlier than normal, would this give enough time to organise same. The Chair & Clerk thought that since we would not be looking to attract anything other than voluntary groups on site ( with the normal stalls in the High Street ), and it being a more confined space it was achievable.

The Chair proposed we try to run with a proper Carnival theme with Samba Band/ Steel Drums etc. if possible and try to encourage as many organisations/people to take part in the parade as possible. Some members commented that the earlier date may be beneficial as schools will not be on holiday, and there might be a better chance of them becoming more involved.

It was paramount that the change of date was well advertised, and the Clerk agreed to draft a letter/e-mail to forward to schools and other organisations that normally attend.

Furthermore it was agreed the Chair and Clerk draft an advertisement for Carnival Queen & Court with a view to it being ready by end March/ early April.

## ***7. Children's Literature Festival 2016***

The Clerk reminded members that the festival itself would be held week commencing 12<sup>th</sup>. September, albeit the Launch was arranged for Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. April at Blackwood Miners' Institute. He had contacted Iain Richards Velvet Coalmine Festival Director and was awaiting an agreed wording for the invitation letter/e-mail that he had agreed to forward to Town Councillors, Local County Borough members/officers and other local dignitaries. Iain would send invitations to sponsors/potential sponsors and other contacts, whilst it was hoped Jane Mather would co-ordinate invitations to the school representatives.

Councillor M Veater asked whether an invitation would be extended to The Freedom of the City of London Group which she hoped might be able to become involved. The Clerk promised to forward an invitation if she passed on contact details.