

MINUTES OF TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING HELD ON 13TH. JANUARY 2016.

Present : Councillor A Farina-Childs (Chair)
Councillor G Erasmus (Vice Chair)
Councillors D Davies & W Baber

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors C Erasmus & Z Hammond

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made at this point

3. To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th. November 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true record

4. Topics For Discussion

(k) Procurement

The Clerk reported that Paul Hudson had agreed to attend tonight's meeting but unfortunately had not arrived.

The Clerk stated he had received confirmation from Paul that the likely cost of hire/erecting & dismantling gazebos as used at the Christmas Market would be in the region of £65 per gazebo. Given that we aim for 30-40 stalls, we could be talking of anything from £1,950 - £2,600 if positioned in the High Street as envisaged. Given that at least 50% would be charitable stalls and we have never made a charge in the past, and that £65 would probably prove excessive for craft/other type stalls for a afternoon (possibly a Sunday) these costs appear excessive and could take approx. 25% - 33% of likely budget available.

Councillor A Farina-Childs commented that if the proposal/recommendation as stands with stalls in the High Street, not only would these costs be excessive, but on the evidence of the Christmas Market there would definitely be no room for a parade including any vehicles, and difficult to envisage any form of parade safely taking place.

Discussion turned back to other possible venues, with the Clerk informing members he had heard that the Bedwellty Show would be moving from the Showfield to Llancaiach Fawr in Nelson. Unfortunately the venues considered previously - Showfield, Blackwood Rugby Club, Libanus Fields and a new one highlighted at Woodfieldside had more disadvantages than advantages especially wanting to concentrate more on keeping the event in/near town.

After much discussion members came to the conclusion that perhaps the most sensible and manageable option might be one that had been discarded earlier ie. merging with one of the other events held in the town, and initially at least with the Summer Beach Party.

Councillor W Baber informed members he had had some discussions with the Market Centre Manager who was not dismissive of the Market Place area being used on a Sunday by Town Council. This led to members considering the possibility of our event again concentrating on the Sunday in the Market Place area with the potential of vehicle displays placed at the Bus Station with music and other attractions, with possible large marquee to accommodate voluntary organisations stalls nearby in the Market Place.

It was agreed after reconsideration to recommend that for 2016 we look to work with Caerphilly C.B.C. and include our event on the Sunday at the Market Place if possible.

(1) Budget

The Clerk circulated copies of the anticipated spend on the 2015 Carnival which indicated a potential under spend of £900 on the net budget of £8,200, following under spends of approx £1,200 in 2014 and £500 in 2013.

Members identified additional potential savings that could accrue if we merged the event, and after much discussion it was agreed to recommend a budget of £7,500 for next year. It was further agreed to consider any potential savings be used to bolster the Christmas Market within town.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Chair of this Committee and the Chair of Events Committee be arranged to discuss potential for collaboration.