

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the  
Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs S Patience (Chairman), J Bell, D Farrar, B Grisdale, M Harrington, K Moore, R Roberts and A Symmonds.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

**RA 12/26. Apologies:** Cllrs S Allcroft, G Knox and S Walton.

**RA 12/27. Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Symmonds and Harrington declared a pecuniary interest regarding The Alnwick International Music Festival (minute RA12/30b ) and Councillors Farrar and Moore declared a pecuniary interest regarding Alnwick in Bloom (minute RA12/30b ).

**RA 12/28. Consideration of Alnwick becoming a Festival Town**

Jack Knox and Tom Deedigan from Alnwick Lions attended the meeting and asked the Town Council to organise a meeting to see what interest there was in the town for an ongoing calendar of festivals. A St George's Day Festival, a Book Festival and a Plant Festival were some of the ideas that they suggested. They felt that Alnwick could be established as a festival town and this would enhance community spirit. Councillors were supportive of the idea and agreed that they would organise an initial meeting to gauge interest. This would be in January.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council would organise a meeting of interested organisations and individuals, to explore interest in developing a calendar of festivals in the town.**

**RA 12/29. Budget Update for 2012/13**

A copy of the Committee budget was circulated and discussed line by line. This showed expenditure to be £23,189. Significant expenditure will occur later in the year, on for example grass cutting, planting and the website. The likely out turn for the year was estimated to be £47,865 against a budget of £51,436.

**RESOLVED: The budget update be received.**

**RA 12/30. Consideration of Budget for 2013/14 and draft precept.**

**a) Consideration of criteria for events**

Councillor Farrar had produced draft criteria to help the Committee assess grants to events in the town. These were discussed and suggestions made regarding some small changes, such as combining questions 4 and 6. It was agreed that once changes were made, this should be brought back to the next meeting for approval and future use.

**RESOLVED: Councillor Farrar to amend and update the draft criteria for events, for the next meeting.**

**b) Consideration of funding applications from events (Alnwick Spring Show, Alnwick International Music Festival, Alnwick Food Festival, Alnwick In Bloom, and Alnwick Christmas Lights)**

Councillors considered the applications in turn. The Alnwick Spring Show had been considered at the last meeting and further information had been requested. This had been supplied and covered the use of Willowburn as a venue, the number of people paying admission and the prize money. Councillors were supportive of the event.

**RESOLVED: to pay a grant of £500 to the 2013 Alnwick Spring Show and make budgetary provision for a similar amount to be paid in 2013/2014.**

Councillors considered the Alnwick International Music Festival and the application for assistance with the erection of the stage, which had been an additional cost to the festival in 2012. Councillors agreed to support this.

**RESOLVED: to make budget provision of £3750 to the Music Festival in 2013/2014, this to include the Town Council paying for the erection of the stage and possibly some assistance with the erection of the market stalls.**

Councillors considered the applications from Alnwick In Bloom, the Alnwick Food Festival and the Christmas Lights Committee and were supportive of the efforts that went into all three events. Grant assistance was suggested at the same levels as in 2012.

**RESOLVED to make budgetary provision in 2013/14 of £2575 for Alnwick in Bloom, £1100 for the Alnwick Food Festival and £2,000 for the Alnwick Christmas Lights.**

Councillors then considered the total proposed budget for 2013/14 as circulated by the clerk. Additions were made for town promotion, festival support and play area replacements and a total Committee draft budget of £49,690 was agreed to go forward to the overall council budget and precept.

**RECOMMENDED That the Recreation and Amenities Committee draft budget for 2013/14 be £49,690**

#### **RA 12/31. Agree the 2013/14 Planting Specification**

A final draft of the proposed planting specification and hanging basket specification had been circulated for comment. These had also been discussed with Alnwick in Bloom Committee members and minor amendments made. The Planting Working Group had recommended that the specifications be used in 2013/14 and for planting to be undertaken by Northumberland County Council. This would enable the specification to be fully tested. In addition, they recommended that the specifications should be circulated to other potential contractors to see if they would be interested in tendering in the future.

**RESOLVED: that the planting and hanging basket specifications be approved for use in 2013/14 and form the basis of a service level agreement with Northumberland County Council.**

#### **RA 12/32. Allotments Update**

##### **a) Ratten Row**

Councillor Patience and the clerk had met a contractor on site to discuss the water supply works and were awaiting feedback. The clerk confirmed that the 3 year lease now on offer from Northumberland Estates, seemed satisfactory. It was proving difficult to let some of the vacant area of the site and it was suggested by councillors that more incentive needed to be offered to potential allotment holders, such as 3 years rent free.

**RESOLVED: To offer potential allotment holders 3 years rent free for long term vacant sites.**

##### **b) St George's**

Works had been taking place on the allotments to tidy them up. It was agreed that the Town Council should take over these allotments with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The allotment working group would look at the layout in more detail.

**RESOLVED: that the Town Council take over the St George's allotments with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.**

c) St James's

No issues were brought to the attention of the committee.

Councillors were in agreement to waive Standing Orders to allow the meeting to proceed beyond 9.30pm

**RA 12/33. Play Areas**

The meeting discussed the Glovers Green and Cawledge View play areas. The clerk circulated a final draft questionnaire which was for local residents. This incorporated comments received from councillors.

**RESOLVED: that the questionnaires be finalised and distributed.**

Councillors were informed that the transfer of the Swansfield Park Play area was still under discussion and NCC had been given a quote from a contractor for the repair of the zip wire at Alnwick North.

**RA 12/34. Website and Notice Board Updates**

The clerk outlined that initial designs had been submitted to Colin Harris for the new website. It was reported that Councillor Patience and the clerk had met the Civic Society regarding a new notice board and they were supportive of working with the Council. A possible design and location on the Northumberland Hall was circulated. Comments have been requested from the Northumberland County Council Conservation Officer.

**RESOLVED: To note the current position.**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm