

Alnwick Town Team

Minutes of the meeting of Alnwick Town Team held at 5pm on at The Pavilion, Alnwick Garden. 17th January 2017 at 5pm at The Pavilion, Alnwick Garden

Present: Cllr. Alan Symmonds (Chairman), Philip Angier (PA) (Local Living), Mark Brassell (MB) (Alnwick Garden), Tommy Mattison (TM) (Freemen of Alnwick), Carlo Biagioni (CB) (Chamber of Trade), Elizabeth Jones (EJ) (Alnwick in Bloom), Tim Kirton (TK) (Alnwick Town Council)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Gordon Castle (GC) and Dave Campbell (DC) (Northumberland County Council).

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, November 29th 2016

EH clarified that she had not expressed concern over the state of the cobbles themselves but over the state of the plant containers on the cobbles. Noted.

MB clarified that the "sleepout" had raised £7,000 for participating charities and it was agreed that £500 of that money raised is being contributed to community projects within Alnwick.

With these changes the minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Alnwick Garden Lantern Parade Feedback

MB stated that everything had worked well on the night: 2,000 people had walked in the procession past the people counter and an estimated further 2,000 people were in the streets. Feedback had been very positive, "Spark" were fantastic. A similar procession for 2017 is yet to be confirmed; if this does proceed there will be more marshals next time. Alnwick Garden will be conducting a full Christmas Review on February 9th.

CB said that the town centre traders did very well from the event.

5. Alnwick Charity Event

MB advised that it was not yet known whether a sleepout event would be held in September 2017.

6. Updates

Town Council:

TK reported that Jude Leitch of Northumbrian Tourism was scheduled to meet with MB, CB and TK the following day to discuss possible future tourism funding.

CCTV: TK advised that Invitations to Quote had been issued to five companies by the Town Council and quotations were required to be returned by February 6th. The winning quote would be selected on Thursday February 16th; only then could Listed Building Consent be applied for because the design of the cameras and other equipment needed to be known before the LBC application could be considered. LBC approval is expected by mid-April with installation being completed by late April/early May 2017.

Business Networking Event, January 10th: TK reported that this had been very successful with around 65 attending. A number of firms had already benefitted from networking at and after the meeting. Initial feedback from attendees was very positive and a second event is likely in the spring of 2017.

Willowburn Industrial Estate: There was still no information from NCC as to when the planning application for housing would be considered by NCC's Planning Committee.

Town Hall banners: TK reported that the Town Clerk is progressing these; the application has been submitted and a decision is expected at Easter.

Lectern maps: three of the four will be fitted in march once the lecterns have been powerwashed.

Fingerpost signs: TK advised that the Town Council will take over ownership of and responsibility for these from NCC on April 1st. The Chairman invited Town Team members to make suggestions for new fingerposts in the future as and when finances allow.

PA recalled that this issue was one of the first discussed by the Town Team when it was first set up. PA suggested that past minutes of discussions concerning the fingerposts be examined and suggestions made from these. CB said that traders in Narrowgate are keen on additional signage. EJ suggested that the Bus Station is the logical place for a new fingerpost sign.

It was agreed that TK would undertake an audit of the current Alnwick fingerpost signs to identify the locations and condition of all and then circulate this to TT members for their comments.

ATC Budget: TK reported that a budget had been allocated by ATC for 2017-18 for toilet cleaning and Economic Development. The Chairman said that toilet cleaning would be closely monitored by ATC.

ATC has also allocated a budget for the provision of the stage again for any Lantern Parade in 2017, although whether the Parade does proceed this year is yet to be decided by The Alnwick Garden.

In response to a question from PA the Chairman reported that because of further delays the Neighbourhood Plan referendum would take place in February at the very earliest.

Chamber of Trade:

CB advised that this year's Alnwick Raffle would be officially launched this Thursday, 19th January. Around 700 tickets have already been sold. The Gala Night will be held on February 17th at The White Swan Hotel.

Cobbles Planters: The Chamber asks whether the ATC Handyman can carry out emergency repairs to the pointing on these; TK to advise the Town Clerk. EJ to advise on the original costs of these planters when they were installed, with a view to costing replacements.

Local Living/Markets

PA reported that there are no significant events planned before Easter. PA will attend the Tourism Fair on 21st March at Willowburn Leisure Centre and extended an invitation to the Mayor of Alnwick to also attend; this invitation was accepted and the Mayor will attend from 11.00 hrs.

7. Any Other Business

CB advised that a photoshoot would be held at The Column Field the next day at 12 noon regarding the proposals for the Column Field's enhancement and the Shaun Murray proposals.

EB advised that Alnwick in Bloom are looking at providing four plant containers within the Market Place. PA advised that permissions would be required for these from NCC Highways and Local Living (as Market Place licensee). TM said AiB may need the permission of the Duke of Northumberland as owner of the Market Place.

The Chairman advised that the current "You're Welcome" toilet signs will be replaced by larger and more noticeable versions.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 5pm at The Pavilion, Alnwick Garden.