

Knutsford Town Council

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Minutes

of the

Events and Town Centre Management Committee meeting held 1st October 2018

In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

E18/038 Present

Cllrs Malloy, Coan, Beswick, Farber, Power and Wells-Bradshaw

In attendance: S Morgan (*Deputy Town Clerk*)

E18/039 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hutchence and Mrs Wells-Bradshaw (personal business)

E18/040 To note declarations of members' interests

Cllr Wells-Bradshaw declared a pecuniary interest in the spirit of openness and transparency on the grounds of being employed by Event Buddha, the council's main events contractor.

E18/041 Public Participation

A representative of Friends of the Heath spoke in relation to the Makers Market stating that parking on the heath was prohibited by its common land status and requesting the Council refer to its legal guidance on the matter and that the Guiding Principles Document for the use of the Heath should be agreed at the next Council meeting, prior to planning new events which may include the use of parking

A resident of Silk Mill Street spoke on behalf of residents living in the Marjorie Hurst Trust properties, highlighting the older ages of the residents and expressing their fear over access for emergency services whilst the market takes place. It was stated that one resident has stayed with a family member during the market due to these concerns.

A resident spoke in relation to the suggestion of parking on the heath highlighting its status as a local green space and stating that that it is a park and not a car park.

The Event Director of the Makers Market expressed her desire to address the anxiety of the residents, having previously liaised with emergency service and worked on a strategy, she had been advised that there was no issue with accessing the residents' properties through the ginnel. The director stated she was keen to speak further to residents about their concerns and will review the arrangements with emergency services in light of the concerns raised. The director further stated she would not wish to consider use the Heath for parking if it is not a possibility and will discuss this further with the landowner.

E18/042 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2018

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes.

E18/043 To consider the committee budget and spending to date

The budget and spend to date were discussed and noted.

It was requested that feedback be sought from businesses as to whether the bunting is considered to have a positive impact.

E18/044 To receive a report from the Town Centre Manager

Additional information was provided on the Pumpkin Path. Cllrs Coan and Malloy provided positive feedback on the Taste Knutsford 'dry run'.

Vehicle counting was discussed and that the challenges of the finding the correct system for the town centre car parks has caused a delay in seeking quotations.

Cllr Coan raised concerns about the potential loss of the lorry park on Mobberley Road and its potential displacement of vehicles to other roads in the town which may further exacerbate parking issues.

E18/045 To consider a report on the Makers Market

Residents' concerns on emergency access, noise disturbance, the number of stalls and issues around access were discussed and it was agreed that whilst the market is supported for the prosperity it brings to the town that these issues could not be ignored.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Town Clerk, Chairman and Deputy Chairman to prepare a Service Level Agreement for the operation of the market to cover location, communication, access, operations, stall numbers and health and safety.

E18/046 To receive an update on the Christmas Events

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the Christmas events including the calendar of events to be included in the Christmas programme. It was requested that the railings around the Christmas tree are covered with something such as trellis fencing to make it more attractive. It was requested that the crib be varnished in advance of its installation.

E18/047 To consider a proposal for KnutsFest

It was **RESOLVED** to task the Town Centre Manager with developing a full report on the proposed event and to include £700 in the draft budget pending a decision following the full report.

E18/048 To consider the draft committee budget 2019/2020

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget subject to increasing the Music Festival venue hire costs from £800 to £1500 and to increase sponsorship income from £500 to £1000. It was suggested that any underspend or surplus from the event should be ringfenced for future music festival events.

E18/049 Member questions to the Clerk

Cllr Beswick asked if anything could be done to stop taxis stopping in the road and if the council could ask them not to. Due to the number of taxi firms which come into the area it was considered too difficult to contact all taxi drivers with the request and that taxis are

legitimately allowed to stop in the road temporarily for their passengers. A further concern was discussed about taxis idling their engines.

It is agreed that education is important to discourage drivers from idling and the Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Air Quality Consultation that was attended earlier in the year brought up the idea of signs to educate drivers. The double 'blips'/kerb marks proposed for loading restrictions were potentially helpful.

E18/050 To consider the actions log

The action log was reviewed and a target dates were updated. The committee requested a formal update on the Makers Market road closure order and to offer the old Christmas lights to surrounding parishes, the fire station, police station and Friends of the Moor.

E18/051 To note the date of the next meeting

The date was noted.

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