

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021** at **6.00 pm**.

PRESENT

Councillors Martin Ashcroft, Dorothy Bowman, Dave Hardaker, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Carl Robinson, and Ken Robson.

OFFICERS

Mr D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)
Mrs R. Goddard (Clerical Assistant)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft took the Chair for the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, that Councillor Dorothy Bowman be appointed Vice Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Dorothy Bowman be appointed Vice Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Sandra Haigh.

4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ken Robson and Carl Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest under Agenda Item 9, Item 3.2 as members of Acorn Community Association and Aycliffe Village Residents Association respectively.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 16th February 2021, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors Neville Jones and Joanne Jones joined the meeting at this point.

8. GENERAL EVENTS REPORT

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the Council's community events programme for 2021/22, taking into account current restrictions in relation to Covid-19.

Senior Citizens' Excursions

Following discussion regarding the format of the excursions and bearing in mind staffing and budgetary constraints, it was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) That the Senior Citizens' Excursions proceed in 2022, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.
- ii) That officers ascertain whether cancellation as a result of Covid-19 restrictions would be covered under the Council's insurance policy.
- iii) That a choice of destinations be offered, where available.
- iv) That the excursions be enhanced, on a one-off basis using the Covid Recovery Fund, for example with the offer of lake trip, train ride or other visit appropriate to the destination.
- v) That the feasibility of a winter excursion to a Christmas market be investigated.

Fun in the Parks

Councillor Dorothy Bowman left the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Council had previously agreed that the Fun in the Parks events would be cancelled for 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Officers investigate the feasibility of holding a Fun in the Parks event for either the last week of the school summer holiday or the autumn half term, depending on Covid-19 restrictions and the availability of equipment from suppliers.
- ii) The event be held in either the Town Park or on the Oakleaf Sports Complex field, taking into account the potential numbers of attendees and staffing requirements.

- iii) Local community groups be consulted for input and ideas regarding the event

Skate Fest

This event had been cancelled for 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that officers commence arrangements to hold this event in May 2022.

Big Brass Bash

It was noted that Durham County Council had not approached the Town Council for permission to hold this event in the Town Park in 2020. Officers would monitor any forthcoming requests and report back to the sub-committee if necessary.

Fireworks Display

It was noted that arrangements were in progress for the Firework Display to proceed on 5th November 2021 and SAG forms had been submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that arrangements to hold the Fireworks Display on 5th November 2021 proceed, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions in place at that time.

Santa Tours

Planning was already in progress for the Santa Tours to proceed as normal on 24th December 2021.

Members discussed the possibility of holding any other Christmas-related events.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The Santa Tours proceed on 24th December 2021, taking into account any Covid-19 restrictions concerning social distancing and handing out sweets to children along the route.
- ii) A request for volunteers be made as early as possible.
- iii) The Santa letters service proceed, and officers investigate the possibility of including a small item, such as the medal, which was used last year, in each reply.
- iv) Officers liaise with other organisations which provide a Santa's Grotto in the Town Centre, with a view to offering assistance.

A number of suggestions for future events were made, including a food market, for further consideration by officers in due course.

9. EXTERNAL EVENTS APPLICATIONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting members' consideration of three applications from external organisations for financial assistance or the use of Council land for events they were organising.

Neville Community Association

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, that a grant of £1,000 be made towards the cost of an event in the Town Centre on 17th July 2021. It was noted that this date preceded the planned relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions by the government.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Wendy Hillary, that the grant be made subject to the following requirements being fulfilled:

- i) The Town Centre management and Neville Community Association provide a Covid-19 risk assessment prior to the event taking place.
- ii) A refund be sought if the event had to be cancelled due to a change in government regulations regarding Covid-19 and outside events.

A vote took place, and the amendment was carried by 6 votes to 3.

A vote then took place on the substantive motion, and this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) A grant of £1,000 be made to Neville Community Association towards the cost of an event in the town centre on 17th July 2021.
- ii) The Town Centre management and Neville Community Association be requested to provide a Covid-19 risk assessment prior to the event taking place.
- iii) A refund be sought if the event was cancelled due to a change in government regulations regarding Covid-19 and events.

Durham County Council / Gala Theatre

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Durham County Council be given permission to use the Town Park for a family show on 10th August 2021.

Junction 7

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that a grant of £1,000 be made to Junction 7 towards the cost of a summer engagement event to be held on Livin land in Silverdale Place on 27th August 2021.

Chairman