



WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

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Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

ECONOMIC & TOURISM COMMITTEE

Thursday 6 October 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor R Eddy (Chairman)
Councillors, Mrs D da Cruz, R Edgington, Mrs M Grainger, Mrs M Littlejohn (sub),
J Holland, N Murphy.

Co-Opted members Mrs J Baldry, L Bartlett, Mrs E Healey, Mrs C Hodgetts, Mrs S Butcher.

184. Apologies

Apologies were accepted for Councillors M Ashford, Mrs L Bolton, S Cross
and the Mayor (ex Officio)

Ms N Curwood WDC, Mr A Klein.

185. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Warwick District Councillors declared their position regarding item 4 on the Agenda, Review of Leamington Visitor Information Centre and Cllr J Holland as a Committee member of the Folk Festival ref Item 7.

186. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2016 – minutes to be signed

It was resolved to accept and sign the minutes as a true record.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

187. Update concerning Leamington TIC

The Town Clerk reported that the present position was that Leamington Visitor Centre was managed by Warwick's Visitor information Centre Manager, Liz Healey, which saved Warwick District Council a significant amount of money.

At a recent meeting of Leamington Town Council, the future management of LTIC was discussed and although no firm decision it was the consensus that LIC was a well-used service and appreciation for the management provided was appreciated.

Further information was required before a resolution could be obtained as the Visitor Audit review results would be known next week.

This was requested to go to the next Full Council meeting on 19 October for further discussion.

188. Visitor Information Centre & Court House Usage

Report was circulated to members. Two Danish Students would join the VIC team as part of a work experience along with another Student from Aylesford School. The Volunteer list was growing and present 0 hours' contracts were in effect.

The September footfall figures compared to last year was level however August had shown a 13% decrease.

The new Website although showing a decrease in activity was proving to be popular with 80% new visitors to the site 64% of those were under 35.

Visitor Guides were proving to be as useful and popular as ever.

189. Grants- Review of Application Process.

The Chairman confirmed that the present Community Grants Application process was to undergo a 360-degree review with the Chairman of both Economic & Tourism and Community & Culture with The ATC.

190. Community/Warwick Events Application

Packmores Community Projects Summer Fun Day Application.

It had been decided by consensus from the Committee Members, via email, that the Town Council would wish to support the application with funding of £500. However due to the inclement weather due to hit on that particular day ATC & Marcos De Campos agreed that the extra funding would not be required as the event was to be reduced significantly.

It was also confirmed that any further applications be presented in the correct manner and to the correct Committee as it was likely that future support would be applied for.

The Folk Festival Chairman communicated thanks to the Town Council for its continued support and submitted a report from this year's event.

191. Report from Co-Opted members

The Chairman reported to members that there was to be a networking event to be held at the Rose & Crown on 27 October with Business and Event Officer from the District Council, Nicki Curwood, with a view to the re-engagement with Warwick Businesses and formation of a new Town Centre Management Group. Time of event 6.30pm.

Liam Bartlett- Warwick Castle reported that the Castles general performance was healthy and that October half term bookings were growing with Halloween attractions being a good promotion. The Castle had also linked up with 'Trivia Trails' which could be picked up from inside the Castle which encouraged people out into the Town.

Sue Butcher- Warwick Chamber of Trade reported that the Chamber were to hold events to encourage membership and there would also be quarterly meetings with David Butler from WDC concerning the existing economic strategy and its future planning.

Retail Radio was to be reintroduced into Warwick with funding from the PCC.

Concern was expressed about the Business Rates increase which could potentially be as high as 45% for big businesses which would look to be phased in next year. This is the first revaluation since 2010 and is based on the rentable value of a property, although it is expected that this will affect mostly London Businesses

It was resolved that the Chairman of Economic & Tourism and the Chamber would request to meet with the MP to discuss possible implications for Warwick.

Signed..... Date.....