



WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House
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WARWICK
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Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

ECONOMIC & TOURISM COMMITTEE 22nd FEBRUARY 2023

Present:

Councillor N Butler	Councillor S Cross
Councillor R Edgington (Chair)	Councillor Mrs M A Grainger
Councillor O Jacques	Councillor Ms Mary Noone
Councillor J Tracey	

Co-opted Members:

Mrs J Baldry B & B, Mrs S Butcher & Ms A Littlejohn Chamber of Trade, Mrs E Healey Manager VIC, Mr T Williams Warwick Racecourse. Mrs A Vanian-Cooper St Mary's, Liam Bartlett Warwick Castle.

Absent: The Mayor (ex-officio)

MINUTES

289. Apologies Councillor J Darcy, Councillor R Eddy, Jo Randall WDC Events & Mr Aaron Corsi WCC sent their apologies, it was resolved to accept their apologies.

290. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. Councillor N Butler – Item 296. Folk Festival grant.

291. Matters arising from previous minutes – WDC confirmed that there was not a ban on animals at Victorian evening. A review of need v cost was the main reason, plus ensuring animal welfare.

WDC Jo Randall will organise a meeting with the Town Clerk regarding the Grant agreement.

St Mary's Tim will report at the next meeting regarding visitor survey.

Warwick Chamber – meeting held regarding funding for EMPR project. £6k budget agreed from Town Council, for 2023/4 - to be match funded by the Chamber.

292. Chamber of Trade -Sue Butcher advised that the Chamber would be attending the Warwick Town Network 7th March 2023. Warwick Arms Hotel has been refurbished they are engaging more with the Town – working with St Mary’s for the 900 event.

PR summary of activities – Ellen EMPR had provided a report which was circulated. Ms A Littlejohn highlighted key events. They are hoping for good coverage of the Coronation.

Historic events – i.e., Lord Leycester reopening & St Mary’s 900.

UKSPF grant being applied for as part of the match funding requirement.

It is the Chambers intention to secure funding for the next two years.

293. Visitor Information Centre - Manager Mrs L Healey’s report had been circulated. Liz added that the Parks and Gardens leaflets are being revamped, this was the only addition to the report.

294. Wayfinding project – A Presentation was made by Heath from Whybrow Pedrola giving an overview of the stages completed. The ability to change maps was asked – it was confirmed that this would be possible. The Castle suggested that wayfinding was placed inside the Castle grounds to entice visitors to go into the Town. Concerns raised regarding narrow pavements and conservation. Heath confirmed that all points had been considered. The Town Clerk was liaising with WDC regarding next steps and funding.

295. Carbon Neutral- – Discuss how this committee can support this initiative – Cllr O Jacques summarised the initiative and asked Councillors to report back on ideas at the next meeting.

296. Grants – St Mary’s and Folk Festival – annual £5k part of a 3 year agreement were approved to be paid.

297. Meeting date for April 2023 – agree a revised date, 26th April, due to Partnership meeting – Following a discussion it was resolved to change the date to the 25th April 2023.

298. Christmas lights replacements and new lights – the proposal was reviewed and approved. The final costs, including plug socket costs will be circulated once known.

299. Co-opted Members to report

Warwick Castle. Merlin Group have a new CEO. Festival of Archery receiving PR coverage on local TV news. The new Trebuchet is nearing completion. Hotel due to be completed November 2023. Tower suites being refurbished. 10 large scale events planned this year.

Warwick Racecourse. Coming to the end of a busy season. Visitor numbers increased from previous year. 30th March St Mary's Lands cup day – Councillors invited – please advise Town Clerk should you wish to attend. Antisocial behaviour has reduced.

Bed & Breakfast the Christmas period was busy. Jan/Feb quieter. Australian visitors are back but not the Americans. Guests staying for the weekend rather than one night.

WCC – report sent advising of activities in the County (attached).

WDC – Jo Randall advised:

- WDC have launched a joint consultation with Stratford on Avon District Council for our joint South Warwickshire Economic Strategy. Consultation is open until 31 March. They will be holding two virtual stakeholder events on 8 and 16 March to which representatives from WTC would be welcomed to attend. Details to follow.
- The consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan is open until 6 March.
- WDC are happy to confirm that they can provide a grant of £2,000 towards the Ambassadors Programme – JR to liaise with WTC over payment.
- Warwick District Council have signed a 6-year lease on office space at Saltisford in Warwick – we will be moving in June 2023
- UKSPF officer has been appointed and joining the team shortly.
- JR to liaise with Liz on the re-print of the town guide.

Signed..... dated.....