

DOWNHAM MARKET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 07th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM

Present:	The Chairman	Cllr B Hobbs
	Councillors	Cllr F. Daymond
		Cllr J. Groom
		Cllr R. Horne
		Cllr. Pickering
	Borough Councillor	Cllr J. Westrop
	Community Development Officer	Mr M Hayes
	Members of the Public	2

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council offices.

Members were asked to ensure that their mobile telephones were either switched off or on silent mode.

1106. To receive Members' apologies for absence

Apologies received from:
Cllr Reed due to ill health
Cllr Thompson due to ill health

Proposed: Cllr Hobbs

Seconded: Cllr Groom

“It is proposed to accept members apologies for absence from this meeting”

All in Favour

1107. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest received pertinent to the agenda of the meeting.

1108. To approve the minutes of the Community Development Committee meetings held on Wednesday, 6th December 2017 (5919 – 5923)

Minutes had not been distributed to the councillors in good time prior to this meeting and these were to be held over until the meeting of 7th March 2018.

1109. To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk raised that until further notice the agenda item 'To receive the Clerks Report' would be removed unless specific reports were being delivered.

1110. To receive presentation from Chris Lewis of CULTure Babylon on Fear In The Fens (Presentation in Appendix 1)

The Community Development Committee welcomed Chris Lewis of Culture Babylon to talk about the Fear in the Fens festival and its tourism impact on Downham Market.

Mr Lewis introduced the background and history of CULTure Babylon. Having hosted successful one-off movie events commencing in Ely in 2012 and then moving to locations in King's Lynn, there had been an objective, influenced by Frighten Brighton, to hold a full day event. Downham Market Arts had approached CULTure Babylon with the view of Downham Market being the host location, and thus the inaugural Fear in the Fens film and horror festival was held in Downham Market in 2016.

The Fear in the Fens event has now run for two consecutive years screening classic British horror movies, hosting talks on the screened movies and expanding to storytelling and to provide a platform for local film makers to screen short films in a now multi-day event. The platform for local short film makers has been particularly successful, with distributors picking up all the short films in 2017.

Mr Lewis then went on to provide an overview of the demographics of the visitors attending the event, based on data collected this showed that:

- 78% of attendees came from out with the Downham Market and King's Lynn area
- 26% of attendees purchased local accommodation through conventional sources and airbnb.
- CULTure Babylon had seen a 28% increase in ticket sales from 2016 to 2017.

It was highlighted that the volume of airbnb bookings was significantly more than expectation due to limited knowledge of the local airbnb market place.

Mr Lewis then went on to highlight the possibilities for the future of the event, highlighting the success of other events such as:

- Southend's Horror on Sea festival held over two weekends in January that saw the hosting Park Hotel by Radisson alone having 111 rooms booked by attendees of the festival this year;
- and the Abertoir Horror Festival in Aberystwyth which is held over 6 days in November and sees 69% of attendees booking accommodation locally.

The initial objectives for CULTure Babylon for the event are to continue to build audience with an investment in media and big-name speakers, whilst looking at generate relationships with local businesses and support from local organisations. This could include endorsement and potentially financial support to continue to build local tourism through this event.

Upon completion the presentation, Councillors questioned and discussed the event and CULTure Babylon with Mr Lewis. Discussion covered the following points:

- Media: this primarily focused on digital media, including the creation of a YouTube channel
- Business Partnership: discussed the successful use of Cream Up Scotty for catering and No. 8 The Old Bookshop acting as a box office for events, plus the availability of sponos
- Event Focus: very much on the Fens as it has a lot of folklore and history as well as have a tie with the work of M.R. James very much tying to a sense of location and place. Such events can help raise knowledge of the folklore and history of the area.
- Unique selling points: Fear in the Fens is very much a unique festival.
- Council support: practical help and support, support in kind and possibility of applying for a council grant to support tourism.
- A general discussion about various locations available for events similar to Fear in the Fens.

The Chair thanked Mr Lewis for his time and wished the Fear in the Fens event success in the future.

1111. Adjourn meeting for general discussion with any members of the public present

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

No public were present at the meeting and no points raised for discussion.

The Chairman resumed the meeting.

1112. To discuss any items arising from general discussion

No discussion took place

1113. To consider the motion to support Commonwealth Day 2018

Clerk gave a summary of the proposal that was brought to Community Development

Proposed: Cllr Groom

Seconded: Cllr Pickering

“To support Commonwealth Day 2018 through the Fly a Flag for Commonwealth Day Initiative”

All in Favour

1114. To receive Correspondence

General Correspondence was received by councillors

The Chair highlighted the letter received from Norfolk County Highways with respect to an upcoming Community Ranger visit requesting suggestions for work. These small working units perform small work scopes and minor highway repairs based on requests from the community.

Councillors discussed possible work scopes and the level of highway repair capability. These included:

- Cleaning and making visible the yellow lines on Fairfield Road / Railway Road by the station
- Repairing the sign coming into Downham Market
- Clearing the ditch behind Tesco's car park
- Looking at the highway by the sorting office that was pitted
- Repairing the drain cover by the Station

It was recommended any further suggested work should be raised with the Deputy Clerk.

1115. To Receive Councillors Questions

No Questions from Councillors were raised.

1116. Payment of Bills

A list of bills for payment for February 2018 was circulated to all members.

Bills for payment were reviewed by the committee

Proposed – Cllr Pickering

Seconded – Cllr Groom

‘The bills for payment listed are paid forthwith from their assigned budget lines’

All in Favour

1117. To receive report/minutes from the Event Sub Committee

The minutes of the events sub committee were delivered for review, as per appendix 2

1118. To receive reports/minutes from the Working Parties of this Committee

- 1) Water Festival: No meetings have taken place of this working party.
- 2) Recreation, Leisure and Tourism: The working party had looked at various options and requirements and had discussed the need for footfall surveys and looked at options for attracting active tourists / lesser known recreational activities. To this end the officer attending was looking at footfall survey recommended techniques and procedures and has recently met with local Geocaching experts to gain background into this activity. It was highlighted that footfall surveys would help provide an evidence base for gaining more support from the Town Centre Manager and others.
- 3) Christmas Lights “Switch On”: No meeting had taken place since the last meeting, and the working party were waiting for confirmation of the Kings Lynn Christmas Lights Switch on date prior to further considering this.

1119. Update on Downham Market Arts.

In the absence of a council representative to this group, Councillor Westrop was asked to provide an update.

The upcoming events were highlighted

- Lady Chillers (re-scheduled)
- Noggin the Nog – 14th February at 2.15pm in the Town Hall
- Boudicca - Rebel Queen – 28th May at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

Looking forward Downham Market Arts were considering a multi-day music event in June, and supporting the Fear in the Fen over its three-day event in October. After the success of the Christmas play this year the group were looking towards the same performance group how are planning Aladdin this year.

Downham Market Arts are currently in application for Charity status and if successful would be looking at Arts Council funding in the future.

Cllr Westrop also highlighted the links that Arts groups were seeing between Arts Groups and Urban Regeneration and this may be worth the Town Council considering as there was potential Heritage Lottery Funding that could be available.

1120. To receive and consider the latest available Financial Report ‘actuals against budget’

The Accounts for month 8 were received and reviewed

1121. To discuss any urgent items notified to and agreed by Chairman prior to the meeting

The mayor had requested of the Chair that the committee consider an urgent request of events business not decided on in the previous Events Sub-Committee meeting regarding the booking of a roundabout for the Town Square Fun Day and as such would like to propose that one could be booked.

It was recommended by the Clerk to enable a proposal to be made on this motion Standing Order 20(a) would require suspension due to the notice period given.

Proposed: Cllr Daymond

Seconded: Cllr Hobbs

“It is proposed that applying standing order 21(v) pursuant with standing order 2(a), that standing order 20(a) is suspended for the proposal with respect to booking a roundabout.”

All in Favour

Upon suspension of standing order 20(a) the following proposal was made:

Proposed: Cllr Daymond

Seconded: Cllr Groom

“To book a roundabout for the craft fair fun day on the Town Square up to a maximum value of £200 from the Town Events Budget”

All in Favour

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:22

Chairman

Dated