

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM

Present:

Cllr. R J L Boase in the Chair

Cllr. N J C Devenish (Town Mayor)

Cllr. Mrs F N E Boase

Mrs R Jenkin

Cllr. Mrs V J Matthew

Cllr. M H Thomas

Mr S Edwards

Officers:

Miss P J Lavelle – Assistant to the Town Clerk

234. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2009 be approved and signed as a true record.

235. Review of Harvest Fair 2009

(a) Horticultural and Craft Show

Councillor Mrs Matthew queried if sufficient manpower had been available on the day. The Chairman advised that they had not had enough Stewards which had caused some difficulties. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to involve younger people such as the Cadets or Guides to help on the day. The Chairman also advised that there had been insufficient runners to place the prize cards and this could be ideal for younger children to help with. Councillor Radford-Gaby advised that he was willing to approach the District Commissioner for the Helston Brownies and Guides on behalf of the Committee. Councillor Thomas was of the opinion that assisting with the event could form part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme but arrangements would need to be made by June 2010.

Councillor Thomas informed Members that he was impressed by the way the event was organised but expressed the opinion that the system of scoring appeared to the public to be very complex and difficult to understand. The Chairman advised that more detailed rules could be included in the Schedule. Councillor Thomas agreed to produce a chart explaining the calculations which members of the public could refer to if they had a query.

Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that it was disappointing to see entries disqualified at the Show and asked if there was any way of preventing the problem re-occurring. There was a brief debate and it was agreed to display a large notice at the show stating 'No identification on the exhibits'.

Councillor Mrs Matthew advised that the Schedule was circulated too late for the schools to be able to participate and needed to be distributed in January. Councillor Mrs Matthew agreed to revise the Children's section and the Group Collective Entry section and the Chairman agreed to provide details of entry numbers.

Councillor Mrs Boase advised that there had been a complaint from a member of the public regarding the Vegetables section and it had been suggested to return to the section details used several years before. The Chairman advised that it may be beneficial to contact the judges to confirm if they had any suggestions and the Assistant to the Town Clerk agreed to provide contact details for the judges. It was agreed that a Working Party meeting be held to discuss amendments to the Schedule.

(b) Carnival

The Chairman informed Members that the event went well with lots of walking entries and a few floats. He expressed the opinion that whilst there were fewer entries they were a better quality. The Chairman further advised that the only problem he was aware of was that Mr Cowl who provided the Mayor's vehicle was uncertain if a car was required. The Assistant to the Town Clerk agreed to contact Mr Cowl regarding the vehicle as soon as a date for the following year's event was known.

(c) Pet Show

The Chairman advised that he had been informed that Miss K Perry and Miss J Firth had volunteered to take over the running of the Pet Show and were very keen to be involved in Harvest Fair.

(d) Dog Show

The Chairman advised that the day went well and entries were up, but he was of the opinion that more people were required to help with the running of the event.

(e) Skate Day

Mr Edwards advised that the new format for the day went very well with 150 children participating during the day and approximately 100 adults visited the event. Mr Edwards believed that the format encouraged total inclusion of all standards and confirmed that the event had received a good amount of publicity in the local newspapers. Mr Edwards requested that letters of thanks be sent to OJ Sounds Roadshow, St John Ambulance and Mr B Mitchell at Cornwall Council.

Mr Edwards requested that the event be given a budget to allow him to know what he could spend. The Chairman requested that an item be placed on the next Agenda to discuss the provision of a budget for the Skate Day. Councillor Thomas suggested sponsorship of the event and queried the possibility of holding a display. Mr Edwards confirmed that a display by a pro or semi pro group would be very expensive.

(f) Fundraising

The Chairman confirmed that he had not yet spoken to Mr Rideout regarding a donation to the Carnival but he believed that the funds had been given to another local fundraising cause. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Mrs Atkinson to confirm the current situation.

Councillor Mrs Boase advised that Coffee Mornings were not always a reliable method of fundraising and caused difficulties with lack of volunteers. Members then discussed several fund raising options.

(g) Advertising

The Chairman advised that most shops in the town had displayed a poster for Harvest Fair. Mrs Jenkin suggested the inclusion of a large advert in the newspaper but the Chairman confirmed that this had not been done in the past as it was very expensive.

Councillor Mrs Matthew advised that she had been sending people up to Harvest Fair from the Farmers Market and many people had said they did not realise the event was taking place. Councillor Thomas suggested that bunting be erected in Coinagehall Street the week before Harvest Fair as this would create an atmosphere in the town and indicate that an event was forthcoming.

236. Other Matters Relating to Harvest Fair 2009

Councillor Mrs Matthew expressed the opinion that the Harvest Fair needed to relocate to the Events Space at Coronation Park as this was more visible and would increase the number of visitors which in turn would increase the number of entrants in future years. The Chairman agreed to contact Trevano Tentapprises for a quotation for a marquee suitable for use on a hard standing and the Assistant to the Town Clerk agreed to seek quotations from alternative companies. Councillor Thomas expressed concerns that relocating the marquee to Coronation Park could raise more issues such as access, parking and security.

Councillor Thomas advised that during his promotion of Harvest Fair he had found that a number of separate events were being held as part of Harvest Fair weekend which were not listed anywhere. Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that many groups were holding their own events and were not aware of the other activities taking place. He then queried whether the Committee were holding the events that the Town wanted.

Mrs Jenkin advised that the signs for Harvest Fair required some minor maintenance by Harlequin Design at a total cost of £30.00. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and with a unanimous vote of Town Councillor present it was

RESOLVED – that the cost of maintenance of six Harvest Fair signs at total cost of £30.00 be accepted.

Councillor Mrs Matthew left the meeting at 8.50pm

The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that the Marshals for Cornwall had stepped in to provide overnight security cover for the marquee on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th September and requested clarification of the contribution to be made to the organisation.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and by a majority vote of Town Councillors it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council make a contribution of £100.00 to Marshals for Cornwall in respect of the overnight security cover in the marquee.

Meeting Closed at 8.57pm

Confirmed

Chairman