

Minutes of the Charter Fair Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023, 5pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. White (Chairman); Cllr. N. Bull; Steve Caddy; Tony Mount; Tony Conway; Cllr. Fouracres; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. L. Bull.

2) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Council members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. None declared.

3) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting or any matters the public would like the Fair Committee to consider on a future agenda.

4) Minutes –the minutes of meeting held on 1st February 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5) Accounts – to discuss the final accounts from the Charter Fair 2022. Cllr. White asked if members are happy with the accounts. Apparently there is an agreement with the Church regarding receiving a percentage of those stall holders within the Church. Tony Mount to check if there is an agreement – agenda for April. Cllr. White proposed agreement of the accounts – all in favour.

6) Agreement with the Exmoor Rotary Club – for further discussion following the Rotary Club’s own meeting in February. Steve Caddy wrote to Cllr. Fouracres regarding the Rotary views (this email was then forwarded to Cllr. White and the Clerk). Cllr. White mentioned the questions submitted by the Rotary Club. Steve Caddy talked about financial returns from the fair. Crux, is the Charter Fair a revenue raising event or an historical event? There was a need for investment which all agreed at committee meetings held prior to the 2022 Fair. First time it has made a loss for many years. The hiring of a marquee is now a larger cost, though easier to deal with. The old marquees leaked and the those stall holders requiring an indoor pitch implied they would not come again unless something was done. The old marquees were also difficult to both erect and take down, relying as they did on volunteers. Noted a decreasing number of stall holders since covid. A lot of effort has been put into attracting new pitches to the fair, particularly by Cllr. Fouracres and Cllr. White. The Committee decided to put these comments to the full Council meeting this evening.

Tony Conway had apparently always considered that the Fair was going to lose money in 2022 in advance of the final figures.

Steve Caddy announced that unless there is a plan as laid out in his email to Cllr. Fouracres in order for the Charter Fair to get back into some sort of profit, Rotary will probably pull out.

7) Charter Fair Lease – to receive an update as to progress of this lease. No movement from the solicitors yet, though they have been chased by the Clerk. Cllr. White will email the solicitors.

8) Updates so far –

- i. Signage for the Crafts in the Church – options were requested at the February meeting. The church flagpole is going to be repaired soon so a flag is a possibility. An anchored balloon is also a possibility/or an inflated arch. Clerk to action.
- ii. Stall application form circulated with the agenda – for updating/comments. Clerk to Send form to Cllr. N. Bull to add the new logo.

- iii. Temporary licence – Clerk contacted licensing at the District Council and it is not possible for the Council to hold an alcohol licence covering street traders – it could be possible in the marquee.
- iv. Mens toilets at the Riverside Hall – to be put to the Riverside Committee.
- v. Punch & Judy have been booked and are coming. Entertainers to be discussed with ideas put forward particularly in the stage area to replace the bike display. Rodeo rides is one suggestion. April agenda.
- vi. Steve Caddy informed the committee that Marvellous Eventures have enquired. Some bands have expressed an interest in coming.

The next Committee meeting will be held on 12th April 2023 at 5.00pm. Note the date is the second week in April.