

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURNTWOOD WAKES REVIEW COMMITTEE
HELD AT LAMBOURNE HOUSE, BRIDGE CROSS ROAD, BURNTWOOD
ON TUESDAY 29 JULY 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillors Isaacs, Humphreys (substitute for Councillor Mrs Fisher), Norman, Mrs Rigby, Walker MBE and Mrs Woodward

In attendance

Councillors Mrs Evans and Taylor
Mrs M Danby, Town Clerk
B Cooper, Senior Admin. Assistant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs Fisher

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED That Councillor Norman be elected at the Burntwood Wakes Review Committee Chairman for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. COMMITTEE REMIT

RESOLVED That the Committee remit be received and noted.

5. BURNTWOOD WAKES FESTIVAL 2014

Members revisited the recommendations made to the Full Council in September 2013 following last year's Festival and a suggestion that the Burntwood Wakes festival be reviewed and remodelled to significantly reduce the Town Council's commitment to this event both in financial and staff terms

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked what had happened with regard to the recommendations which had been agreed by the Full Council. The Town Clerk said that the Full Council had agreed funding to enable a two day Festival to be held in 2014; Staffordshire County Council had been approached to ascertain if the Chasewater Country Park might be involved in the 2014 Festival (the response had been in the negative) and LDC had been approached to ascertain if the Leisure Centre campus might be available to host the Festival (the response had been in the negative for 2014 and was cost prohibitive for the 2015 Festival).

Insurance

Councillor Norman asked for an update on the insurance situation with regard to the 2014 Festival having to be cancelled at the last minute due to the site being waterlogged from torrential rain overnight on the eve of the Festival.

The Town Clerk reported that she had met with the Loss Adjuster who saw the claim as being quite straightforward. The Town Clerk said that there were three items which would not be covered by insurance (namely the Excess on the Policy, Insurance Premiums and BTC staff costs) which would amount to c£6,000.

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked if there had been any feedback on the cancellation. The Town Clerk and Councillors reported that there had been very little reaction from members of the public.

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked if there had been any problems with Burntwood Rugby Club regarding the Saturday evening. The Town Clerk reported that she had been made aware of comments relating to the Club's desire to book The Beatless for the Saturday evening (which would have been quite legitimate as the Town Council had cancelled its contract with the band when the Festival was cancelled in its entirety) but she had had no input in this respect.

Councillor Norman asked what pre-publicity there had been in the run up to the Festival. The Town Clerk reported that Press Releases had been issued at various points, including six individual Press Releases sent to all local media with a request that they be publicised on each of the final three weeks prior to the Festival – these had not been published. The Town Council had put posters on display around the town, banners had been displayed, publicity had been taken with www.wherecanwego.com, a four-page wrap had been distributed with the TownTrader and space had been taken in the Lichfield Mercury wrap (front page and inside front page, all the information had been displayed at the Town Council's office on the display boards in Reception and on the Town Council's website.

It was noted that it had been a regrettable but necessary decision to cancel the 2014 Festival given that the site was waterlogged.

Councillor Norman said that the hard work by the Town Clerk and her staff and Councillor Taylor as Chairman of the Burntwood Wakes Committee in getting the 2014 Festival off the ground was much appreciated by Members.

6. 2015 AND BEYOND

There was a significant discussion on what type of event should be held in the future, i.e. whether the Festival be reduced to a simple Family Fun Day and residual funding be used to boost Burntwood in Bloom to provide planting throughout the year at, for example, entrances into the town and perhaps another event at another time of the year. There was a ground swell of opinion that the Festival should revert to stalls in closed-off road, i.e. Chasetown High Street or Sankeys Corner and that the event should promote inclusion and partnerships. There was another suggestion that a fun fair and community stalls could be hosted on the Burntwood Leisure

Centre campus. It was also suggested that voluntary organisations could be invited to take over the Festival with a small budget provided by the Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Woodward suggested that a Working Group could be established to contact local groups, i.e. Rotary, Lions, schools, churches, etc to see what they can offer to the event.

Councillor Mrs Woodward said that Staffordshire County Council could be invited to do something to form part of the Festival at the Chasewater Country Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS The following recommendations are put to the Full Council meeting for consideration:

- That the Town Council record its gratitude for the work done to put the 2014 Festival on and their sadness that it could not go ahead.
- Do we need an annual event?
- Should a smaller event be organised?
- Establishment of a small Working Group tasked with liaising with schools, Rotary, Lions, churches, etc; looking at other potential venues and possible road closures to see an event organised by and for the community
- Burntwood Business Community involvement to be sought

(The Meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.)