

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th October 2017

Present: Cllrs Lamb (chair agenda items 1-4, 6), Child, Phillips, Mathews, Cox and Hyland (chair agenda item 5), K Ward (clerk), Mr Graham Fennell and Mr Ian Lucas from Rackenford Community Shop and 2 members of the public.

Meeting opened 7.30pm

1718-73 Apologies – Cllrs Warne and Parry

1718-74 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Lamb and Child declared an interest as directors of the shop company.

1718-75 Dispensations

The Clerk granted dispensations to Cllrs Lamb and Child who remained in the meeting, took part in discussions but did not take part in voting.

1718-75 Open Forum – no items raised

1718-76 Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 – defer to next meeting

Cllr Hyland took the Chair

1718-77 Rackenford Fireworks Display

It was acknowledged the annual fireworks display had been run successfully by the shop over recent years but that financial constraints had put this year's event in doubt. The shop had approached the Council to enquire if it would be prepared to take over the fireworks display this year. It had been confirmed that the Council's insurance would cover a fireworks display and bonfire, subject to conditions.

Cllr Hyland stated there were two separate decisions, firstly whether in principle the Council wished to assume responsibility, and secondly, if so what are the practical implications.

There was consensus among the Council that the display was an important community event and that the Council should take on responsibility. After a brief discussion it was proposed that the Council should contract the shop to run the event on its behalf given the short timescales involved.

In taking responsibility for the event the Council raised a number of queries on the practical aspects, in particular, enquiring whether the insurance conditions and HSE guidelines could be met. In response to questions from the Council Mr Fennell and Mr Lucas it was established:

- The event had been running for several years and there had been no incidents
- The event would be run by the same team with several years' experience
- Six stewards would be in place 2 on the fireworks, 2 on the bonfire and 2 on general crowd duties
- Only category 3 fireworks have been obtained
- No petrol or paraffin is used to light the bonfire

A site plan and risk assessment were also presented by Mr Fennell.

It was noted there are two conditions in the insurance policy which could not be met:

- The event will be at least 100m from and vehicles or houses: the bonfire is estimated at 100m away, but the fireworks display is estimated at 75m from the nearest houses.
- The insurers require 14 days' notice of the event: the event is planned on 5th November.

Both of these matters would need clearance from the Council's insurers before the event could take place.

Regarding the marquee providing food the Council confirmed it was not in the business of catering, nor was it insured, and this would remain the responsibility of the shop.

The shop would also collect donations from the public to cover its costs. The Council stated that any excess profit should be shared on a 50/50 basis with the Council.

It was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED** that:

- a. Subject to confirming full insurance cover is in place, the Council take on the responsibility of the fireworks display and bonfire on 5th November; and
- b. The Council should contract the shop to run the event on its behalf at a cost of £500 in accordance with the conditions set out in the Council's insurance policy and HSE guidelines; and
- c. The contract will include a 50/50 profit sharing clause.
- d. If insurance cover could not be confirmed, the Council will provide the shop with a grant of £500, and permission to use the Common on 5th November for the purposes of a bonfire and fireworks display.

Actions:

Clerk to contact the Council's insurance outlining proposals and providing such information as required, and noting the areas where the insurance conditions are not currently met.
Cllr Hyland to prepare a contract between the Council and shop

Cllr Lamb took the Chair

1718-78 Next meeting

Tuesday 7th November 2017, 7.30pm at Rackenford School

Meeting closed 8.30m

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
