



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

THE MINUTES OF THE FLEETWOOD TOWN COUNCIL FESTIVE LIGHTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22nd November 2016
AT THE NORTH EUSTON HOTEL 7.30pm.

Present:

Christine Smith Chairperson, Julie Dalton Clerk, Terry Rogers, Emma Anderton, Mike Barrowclough, Lorraine Beavers, Marge Anderton, Robert Brown, Anne Brown, Cheryl Raynor, Paul Tilling.

Guests:

Lee Preston Stefani and Paul Haslam Beside the Seaside Team

321. Accepted Apologies for absence, Dawn Spooner CDO, Jennie Bywater. Mary Stirzaker, Dawn McCord,

322 To approve the minutes of the meetings on the 16th November 2016. Duly approved and signed.

323. Debrief Meeting to discuss the Festive Lights Weekend

The Committee agreed that The Lantern Parade and the Switch On was a very enjoyable event and well attended considering the inclement weather. However, it was unanimous that having Ash Street as a venue did not work for the following reasons:

324. The Lantern Parade was held up by dignitaries not turning up. One absentee was the Mayor but he did send his apologies to the Committee prior to the event taking place. Three other dignitaries could not attend at the last minute for personal reasons.

The Blackpool Transport representative did not contact anyone as to why he did not turn up and neither did the parents of the Raffle Ticket Winner of Chaucer Community Primary School.

The Committee decided that in future, all passengers travelling on the illuminated tram should be given a mobile phone contact of the Chaperone travelling on the tram.

The Committee agreed that in future we should always invite Mrs Lofthouse to our events.

The wrong tram was sent to the Parade. We had been promised the newly refurbished Fisherman's Friend tram. The volunteers told us that they only put their names forward because they thought it was that tram and there were train enthusiasts who only came to see the refurbished tram so were disappointed.



The Committee asked that a polite letter be sent the Blackpool Transport representative asking for the reason why he was unable to travel on the illuminated tram and does he know of the reason why we did not get the Fisherman's Friend tram that we were promised for the parade.

Action Point – Dawn Spooner

Road closures were an issue at Poulton Road and the Ferry terminus. Cars were coming through because the road had not been closed off and it was dangerous. Marshals and Community PCSO's on the day had to act as a barrier and close some roads off. Also, a tram arrived at the Ferry terminal despite the agreed shut off time of 2 hours between 4 and 6pm. The Committee felt that Blackpool Council should reimburse for their failure in operating the road closures as requested by the Festive Lights Committee and for not adhering to the 2 hour shut off time for the trams. **Action Point – Dawn Spooner**

The Risk Assessment for the tram route was correct as the tram cessation was in place along with the road closures. The problem was insufficient number of marshals at Ash Street/guiding public alongside the tram. Marshals failed to keep people off the tramtrack, they got in front of the illuminated tram causing it to stop. It was only good fortune that there was not a serious accident on the day.

Some volunteer marshals from the Fleetwood Recovery Workshop complained about not having a collection bucket and were not happy when it was explained to them that only Committee members were being issued with them.

325. Switch On.

The General Public could not see what was going on at the clock tower where the choir and Samba Band were performing. The same issue arose with the Switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights.

Due to the mass of the public near the clock tower there was difficulty in getting Santa's sleigh through the crowds.

The PA System that was used by the DJ did not meet the requirements for the area because everything was at ground level and people could not hear what he was announcing so they had no idea what was happening and when which caused some to lose interest.

The General opinion is that we should revert back to the Marine Hall as a venue where there is a stage and a PA system provided, although this will incur extra costs to the Festive Lights Committee and we may have to approach Fleetwood Town Council for funding. Another suggestion was to use the Mount Pavilion but this would require extra lighting. A decision will be made next year.

The lighting on the Parade route was thought to be sporadic because of the lamp post trees not being on all the lamp posts. Lancashire County Council need to confirm exactly what can be placed on the lamp posts so that there is uniformity along the route and we can perhaps look at other forms of decoration to go on the lamp posts that can't take wrap around trees.



The shop trees looked much better this year and the service also improved, perhaps because it was handed back to Robert at Town Centre Trees who was directly responsible for the orders being placed by the shops.

The Committee decided that the large Trees need to be installed at least a week before the Switch On to give time to deal with any issues that may arise.

The Committee also agreed that we employ a professional like Robert Ryan Blackpool Illuminations to install the Mount Pavilion Lights and the Street Light Furniture and really enhance those rather than more lamp post trees.

326. Santa Sprint on the Mount

Those Committee members who were present said it was a very enjoyable experience. Those who participated all said they want to do it again next year.

Committee member Paul Tilling will speak to the people who organise the Trinity Hospice Santa Dash with a view to us linking up with them next year. As a registered charity they will do all the publicity, charge £10 an issue Santa Suits and medals to all participants. It was thought that if the Hospice agree, we then donate half the proceeds to a Fleetwood charity. The Committee agreed that we will look into this next year.

The Committee also raised the issue of publicity. It was suggested that perhaps we can contact Radio Lancashire to advertise the events for us. Also to time it when Alfie Boe is visiting Fleetwood. To be discussed at a future meeting.

AOB

Grand total raised was £386.00 which included school raffles and bucket collections, minus £45 given to Christine Smith to pay out for the nine selection boxes

Broadway Tree lights and all other lighting problems are being dealt with on Thursday

Five units to be exchanged on the street furniture and solar lights to be turned around

The Pocket Park has only one tree light and will be dealt with by the Pay Back Scheme on Thursday.

A letter should be sent to the FTFC Chairman expressing our gratitude for his very generous donation last year and we fully understand why you were not inclined to make a donation this year. Give him a full break down of how his donation of £8,000 was spent, between 2015 and 2016. ie. £2,500 on the Mount Pavilion, laser lights and Lumify lights as well as lights for the Large Trees and provide photographic evidence of lights on the Mount and the trees. **Action Point – Dawn Spooner**

Any meeting with FTFC should be preceded by a business plan in the form of an official letter with costings of what the Festive Lights Committee would like to achieve for the coming year and the Chairman of the Festive Lights Committee should be present at any meeting. The letter should be sent out in February before we have the AGM in March.

Ideas for next year such as a Victorian Christmas by the Museum.

A note of thanks to be sent to the Rotary Club for the Santa Sleigh and to the marshals who helped at the Switch On. Also a note of thanks to be sent to the Old Boys Band. **Action Point – Julie Dalton**



327. To confirm the dates and venue of the next meeting of the FTC Festive Lights Committee

The next Fleetwood Festive Lights Meeting will be Monday 13th February 2017 in the North Euston Hotel at 7pm

AGM Meeting will be Tuesday 14th March 2017 in the North Euston Hotel at 7pm in the North Euston Hotel at 7pm

SignedDated.....