

Birchwood Carnival Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 19th September 2018, 1.00 pm

Parkers Farm Community Centre

Attendees: A Lord (WBC), G Kerry (Ranger, WBC), D Hazlehurst (Ranger, WBC), Cllr I Atkin (BTC), Cllr P Nelson (BTC and WBC), Cllr D Ellis, P Ives (Birchwood Lions), Beky Wakefield (ASDA), D Fisher (Friends of Birchwood Forest Park)

G Crowe (BTC), F McDonald (BTC)

Apologies: Cllr R Bowden (BTC), Cllr D Breslin, B Collins (Birchwood Lions), E Collins (Birchwood Lions)

NB: any reference to those attending in these notes will be made using initials

1. Welcome

AL welcomed those present.

2. Declarations of interest

The Chair reminded those present of their responsibility under The Constitution to declare any interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when the item is reached.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May 2018

The Chair asked those present to approve the Minutes of the Meeting which took place on Tuesday, 8th May 2018 as an accurate record.

The minutes were approved.

4. Overview 2018 Carnival

AL asked those present if the Carnival had been a success and if there had been any feedback from the community.

DH said that feedback received had been positive and the event had gone really well. He estimated that around 3-4,000 people attended, possibly because the weather was favourable.

The only negative comments centred around the price of the fairground rides; they were considered expensive.

AL said that the fairground provides variety at the event, particularly as there needs to be something suitable for all ages. He said that Silcocks, the fairground provider, pay £800 to attend the event and that people do have a choice whether to go on the fairground rides, or not.

The comment was made that the advertising of the rodeo bull and climbing wall and the fact that they were free could have been better.

It was suggested that more coverage on social media platforms could be the answer.

AL asked DF how the Friends Group fared on the day.

He then said that the Town Council had also given some grant funding to enable the Carnival to go ahead in the event that no other grant money could be secured, meaning that £1773 should be repaid to the Town Council. However, he said that this matter would be discussed with Council Members at the Town Council meeting taking place on 25th September to determine if they require this to be repaid to the Town Council, or retained within the Carnival Committees account to help finance the 2019 community event.

6. Carnival/Event 2019

AL asked those present if they believe there should be a Carnival in 2019.

All those present said that there should be a Carnival.

GK confirmed that Silcocks have already been in touch regarding the 2019 event.

The date for the 2019 event is Sunday, 2nd June.

Theme – committee members to bring ideas to the next meeting.

Main arena attractions/costs – committee members to give the matter consideration and bring ideas to the next meeting.

It was suggested that the opening of the new skateboard/pump track could be made part of the event.

The climbing wall and rodeo bull could feature again in 2019 as they were popular attractions.

PI will investigate to see if he can locate a land train and enquire re: availability and costs.

Zorbs, zorb football, walking football or some kind of re-enactment were discussed as a potential attractions.

All to bring ideas/proposals for attractions, together with costs, to the next meeting.

7. Funding 2019

AL opened a discussion about how the committee intends to finance the 2019 Carnival.

DE offered to approach the organisations that had been kind enough to support this year's event as well as approaching some others.

DF commented that Chapelhouse (a local car dealership) had approached DH regarding sponsorship of the event, and said that perhaps this is something which could be explored further as an option, particularly as it is much earlier in the planning process than last year.

AL suggested that the Committee should look at some early discussions with commercial entities. He added that once the programme is known, there should be a list of attractions/acts with price points which could be put to any potential sponsors. They could then have the opportunity to support a specific activity.

BW confirmed that ASDA will usually pay for a 'thing' or activity. She suggested that an email requesting consideration for the green token scheme should be submitted in addition to an application for funding an activity once the overall programme is known.

AL said that other local events are run with an initial cash injection, with the events becoming self financing at some point after that.

The question was then raised if the event could be run in the future without the financial assistance of the usual funding contributors.

DF enquired if better use could be made of the park, eg hiring it out for other local events.

AL said that the park is available for hire from WBC, however, any money received may not necessarily be allocated to the park, it may go back into the WBC pot.

A discussion then took place relating to the possibility of a waiver from WBC, which would enable any monies raised from/on the park to go into the Friends of Birchwood Forest Park's pot which benefits the local community of Birchwood.

The suggestion of a car boot sale was made, however, PI said that the Lions had experienced a downturn when they have run such events as they no longer appear to be popular. The discussion then turned to the potential for having a party in the park for children.

AL said that, from the Borough Council's perspective, other areas manage to hold events in their parks and that standard requirements apply to any event: the event needs to be risk assessed, adequate insurance in place and it needs to be cost neutral to the Council. He added that even if a group wanted to run an impromptu event, they could, but they would still have to comply with the requirements for holding an event in a public open space.

IA enquired if those present thought that the fees payable by stallholders was sufficient.

In general, those present thought that the fees payable are about right, however, DH said that the commercial vendors were of the opinion that the cost of a stall was a bit high.

8. Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday, 31st October 2018 at 1.00 pm at Parkers Farm.