

Birchwood Carnival Committee Meeting

Wednesday 9th October 2019, 1.00 pm

Parkers Farm Community Centre

Attendees: Cllr I Atkin (BTC), Cllr D Ellis (BTC), G Kerry and D Hazlehurst (Ranger WBC),
D Fisher (Friends of Birchwood Forest Park), P Dyson and P Ives (Birchwood Lions)

F McDonald (BTC), G Crowe (BTC)

Apologies: Cllr D Breslin, B Collins and E Collins (Birchwood Lions), A Lord (WBC), A Kirkham (YHG)

P Ives (Lions) informed the Committee that regretfully, due to other commitments,
B & E Collins will be unable to continue as Members of the Carnival Committee.

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

1. Welcome

IA welcomed those present.

2. Declarations of interest

IA 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.

Cllr I Atkin - Sellafield

3. Minutes of the meeting held on

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2019 were approved.

4. Overview/ Feedback from 2019 Carnival

Those present that had attended the Carnival were of the opinion that, although the weather was a bit mixed, the event itself had been a success.

PI said that, in his view, the car parking was remote particularly for those with mobility issues. Other comments related to it being difficult to find and it not being very well used.

He enquired if consideration could be given to opening up the side gate to the park which would enable people to park on the field. This would be dependent on weather leading up to the event as it could be quite waterlogged.

IA commented that the contractors' cabins will not be sited on the car park next year which will free up a number of parking spaces.

A discussion took place regarding the acts which were well received.

Gladiator Joust. This was not able to be used during rain showers.

Fairground. The cost of rides was considered expensive and a discussion took place as to whether the fair should be at the carnival, although it was accepted that the fair is an attraction for teenagers.

A comment was made that similar rides at Orford Park cost £1, however, they are more expensive at Birchwood Carnival.

The question was asked 'to what extent is the cost of rides linked to the cost of the fair attending the Carnival?' It appears that Silcocks pay more to attend Birchwood Carnival than any other local event. DH was asked to enquire.

GK commented that, in the years when there was no fair on site, the younger people had caused problems.

A discussion then took place regarding the food offer and whether it was considered adequate.

The fish and chip vendor, who was attending for the first time, had a good day and entirely sold out of chips.

The Friends Group also had a very successful day and, as a result, they will be donating £300 towards the cost of the Carnival. It was noted that the Friends Group did not appear on the poster as a sponsor which will be rectified for the 2020 event.

It was noted that there was an incident on one of the rides during the Carnival which was of concern. The procedure for reporting was followed and an accident form was completed by DH. No claim has been made and the parents of the child concerned reported it to the HSE.

A question was raised as to who regulates the fun fair.

DH confirmed that he completes a risk assessment for the event prior to it taking place.

It was also noted that the fairground use diesel generators which are not 'environmentally friendly'.

5. Finance and Funding

GK prepared a statement of the finances for the event which was circulated to those present.

GC commented that the Carnival was almost in a break even position and said that, if no other funding could be secured, the committee could go ahead with a Carnival this year as there is between £5,800 and £6,000 in reserve.

He also said that the base cost of the event had been more for the 2019 carnival as around £2,500 more had been spent on acts, attractions and other features.

The Committee then considered how the 2020 event could be financed.

DH said that the Community Initiative Fund is still available and he will make an application in the near future.

DE will approach other companies on Birchwood Park via Birchwood Forum.

It was also agreed to approach YHG, GGHT (Torus), Birchwood Mall and ASDA to see if they may be willing to support the event in some way.

6. Carnival 2020

IA enquired about the date for the 2020 Carnival.

The date of Sunday, 7th June 2020 was agreed upon.

The Chair then invited discussion regarding the procession.

The future of the procession hung in the balance as very few community groups came forward to take part.

DE queried if the procession had been advertised enough and that perhaps this should be given one last push.

IA commented that local groups had been invited to take part in the procession, it was advertised on social media and posters had been displayed, but no additional groups had come forward.

DE said that he will contact Thomas Risley Groups and other groups that have taken part in the past to see if he can muster any additional interest.

GK to provide a list of groups that have taken part in the procession previously.

DE/GK to make some enquiries to gauge the level of interest.

He also commented that the new Birchwood Acts Group may wish to take part.

The cost of the procession is around £600, including Karamba Samba.

The committee considered a theme for the Carnival and decided upon Ecology as it links in with the Climate Change Agenda and is therefore very topical.

The group put together some ideas for acts and attractions, although members were asked to give the matter some thought and bring their ideas to the next committee meeting in November.

Some ideas were:

Bikes on pump track – DE

Cookery demonstration eg vegetarian food.

Vegetable growing, Incredible Edibles, Foraging, Allotment Society

Beehives – Cheshire Beekeepers

Willow Weaving

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 13th November, 1pm, Parkers Farm.