

Birchwood Carnival Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13th November 2019, 1.00 pm

Parkers Farm Community Centre

Attendees: Cllr I Atkin (BTC), 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 Ellis (BTC), G Kerry (Ranger WBC), B Collins and E Collins (Birchwood Lions), A Kirkham (YHG)

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 9th October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2019 were approved.

4. Finance and Funding

GC commented that details of the income and expenditure had been provided by GK at the previous meeting but the prizes for the procession had inadvertently been omitted and therefore need to be added to the expenditure. The amount involved is £210. He added that this can almost be balanced out by the receipt of a donation from the Friends of Birchwood Forest Park.

GC said that the Carnival was almost in a break even position with around £6000 in the bank. He added that although this appears to be a lot of money it would not be enough to put on an event similar to last year's.

The Committee will need to secure some sponsorships from local businesses.

DF said that there are a lot of local businesses which may be prepared to support the event in some way and, perhaps, have a presence.

IA confirmed that DE had enquired, via Birchwood Forum, if any other organisations would be prepared to contribute, but the response had been disappointing. Birchwood Park has contributed towards the Carnival.

IA will enquire with Sellafield Ltd about potential funding.

DH confirmed that he is in the process of completing the grant application forms for CIF funding. He will apply for £2,000.

FMc said that she had been in contact with YHG and Birchwood Shopping Centre, both of whom have indicated that it is likely they will be able to support the Carnival again, although this can't be confirmed until their budgets are approved.

She also confirmed that she has contacted New Balance, Torus and Decathlon to enquire if they may be prepared to support the event.

There was a lengthy discussion about the future of the procession and how to encourage local schools and other groups to take part. However, it was also noted that the timing is not ideal from the schools perspective as the event is around the same time as the school holidays and exam time.

The Committee concluded that:

- Local schools are to be asked if they will take part
- DE is to be asked to approach prospective funders

5. Event 2020

IA enquired if any of those present had any thoughts about potential main arena attractions following the last meeting.

He said that he had looked at some acts online via the Peter Johnson website, and thought that the following arena shows may be well received:

Sheepdog and duck display c£745 plus VAT and travel

Racing pigs

Lamb national, although this is a bit expensive, being in the region of £1700.

Those present were minded to proceed with the dog and duck display and asked FMc to make an enquiry.

The Committee would also like to consider options for a Birds of Prey display as this is always a popular attraction. There are several alternatives. FMc was asked to make some enquiries.

The following are other options for entertainment to be considered by the committee:

Birchwood Acts or a dance group

Gymnastics

Radio controlled cars – PI said that he believes there to be a group based in Runcorn/Widnes area

Classic cars – PW to make enquiries via organisers of Culcheth Carnival regarding the cars

Side shows: drums, magic etc

Climbing wall – this is always very popular, and it is not as weather dependant

Punch and Judy – to be booked – always well attended

It was suggested that a 'have a go' potters wheel would be popular although there were no suggestions of people or groups to approach.

DH reported that the fairground has now been booked.

6. Procession

After much discussion it was agreed that the Committee should proceed on the basis that the procession will go ahead this year and a concerted effort will need to be made by the committee to get other groups involved. The theme agreed upon was 'Bees and Bugs'.

The committee agreed that Karamba Samba should be approached to lead the procession.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th December 2019, 1pm, Parkers Farm.