

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL****EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Events Sub Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors J Dyne; S McAdam; S Mulcahy and Co-opted member Doug McIlwain (Chairman)

Absent: Councillors; P Kadewere and S Gifford

6. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors; T Forster; B Manning and R Valatka

7. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Events Sub Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (M1), following their informal approval by the Chairman in advance of the meeting. It was

**RESOLVED** that these minutes were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

9. **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Members discussed three forthcoming events:

- (i) HM Queen Elizabeth II serving as longest reigning British Monarch – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The Chairman advised that the Accession Declaration read out to announce the appointment of HM Queen Elizabeth II had been obtained and that it would be read out by the Mayor of Huntingdon on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Members discussed what time the Declaration should be read out, in order to encourage as many spectators as possible. With the event taking place on a week day, Members were in agreement that a lunchtime event might encourage better attendance. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to set the time of the event to 1.00pm.

Members moved on to discuss whether it would be possible to play the National Anthem once the Declaration had been read, suggesting that the RAF Wyton Band

be approached. Should the RAF Band not be available to play, it was agreed that a recording of the National Anthem should be played through the PA system and it was

**RESOLVED** to contact the RAF Band for availability.

*Clerk's note: the RAF Wyton Bandmaster was emailed on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015.*

The Chairman asked Members to consider invitations to the event, with the following being

**RESOLVED** to be invited:

- Town Councillors
- Former Mayors
- The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire
- The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire
- Bishop of Huntingdon or Ely
- Reverend Milton
- Representatives from local Churches
- Local Mayors
- Jonathan Djanogly MP
- Sir John Major and Dame Norma
- Lord de Ramsey
- Former Colleagues
- Schools
- Youth Groups
- Care Homes
- Emergency Services representatives

It was further

**RESOLVED** to issue all invitations by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and to send out a press release nearer to the date of the event.

Finally, it was

**RESOLVED** to display Union Jack flags around the Market Square and on the balcony of the Town Hall for the duration of the event.

(ii) Centenary of RAF Wyton and Anniversary of the Freedom of the Town – 2016

Members had before them the meeting notes from previous meetings with RAF Wyton Personnel about marking the Centenary and Freedom of the Town. The Chairman outlined the discussions that took place during these meetings and Members were in agreement that in principle, the recommendations made during these meetings should be carried over for the 2016 event.

The Chairman suggested to Members that a meeting with RAF Wyton should be arranged to re-approach the event and discuss plans for 2016. One Member, having formerly worked at RAF Wyton suggested contacting a Jim Blackwood from

RAF Wyton's Heritage Centre to ask about an exhibition on the history of the air force's presence in Huntingdon. It was also suggested that the event could take place over two days, one with the exhibition available for viewing in the Town Hall and the second day for the official Parade and extension of the Freedom awarded.

Members discussed possible dates for the event, suggesting April 2016.

*Clerk's note: The creation of Huntingdon's official Crest would take between six and nine months in order to be ready for the Freedom event. This could mean that the Crest would not be ready by April 2016. The Town Clerk therefore suggested that June 2016 should be considered.*

The Chairman advised Members that he wanted to see as many military personnel at the event as possible and therefore suggested that on the same day, the Freedom of the Town could be awarded to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Squadron. Members were in agreement that the event should encourage as much attendance and representation as possible and it was

**RESOLVED** to set up a meeting with RAF Wyton, the Chairman of the Events Sub Committee and Council Officers.

(iii) Oxmoor Disaster 1977

The Chairman advised Members that an article was due to go out in the September Issue of About Town, to gauge public opinion on whether a memorial should take place in 2017 to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragedy. Dependent on feedback, Members were asked what they considered would be an appropriate way of marking the Anniversary.

The Chairman revisited the idea of setting up a fund for the memorial, requesting that RAF Wyton be approached for support, should the idea be accepted by the public.

In order to establish a fund, the Chairman outlined that a rough plan or memorial idea needed to be chosen, to set a target for fundraising. Members discussed the idea of installing five memorial benches, one for each of the individuals that died as a result of the accident. Another Member suggested that five trees could also be planted. After much discussion and brainstorming, the Committee agreed that five benches and five trees should be installed in a circular formation, creating a space for reflection. In the centre of the seating area, it was suggested that a stone could be placed in the ground, listing the five named individuals and the date of the tragedy. Members were advised that there was a seating company that could quote for a bespoke bench design, but that this could be quite costly. The Chairman suggested incorporating a tree design into the back of the bench, with the date of the plane crash.

Members were in agreement that there should be no reference made to the fact that the memorial area had been installed because of a plane crash, but be there simply to honour those who died and to provide a place of reflection for residents.

The Chairman asked Members how they felt the memorial area should be unveiled and everyone was in agreement that a small outdoor service at the bench and tree location would be appropriate. It was further suggested that light refreshments could

then be offered somewhere such as the Medway Centre or Moor Café. Members discussed the location for the benches and trees and it was

**RESOLVED** to look into land available for such an installation, requesting that an area of land be donated if not already owned by Huntingdon Town Council.

10. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Events Sub Committee would take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 5.00pm.

*Clerk's note: The Chairman requested the attendance of the Town Clerk at the next meeting.*

**CHAIRMAN**