Morecambe Town Council



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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Morecambe Town Council's Festivals, Sponsorships and Events Committee held at Morecambe Town Hall at 18.00pm on the twenty-third day of February 2023.

Members Present: Councillors V Boyd-Power, W Cowley, P Forster, B Jackson, C Matthews, L Stansfield, P Clarke.

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer), P Anderton (non-voting ex-officio member).

Minute FSE2223-49

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr D Whitaker and Cllr M Pattison.

Minute FSE2223-50

Declarations of Interests

None.

Minute FSE2223-51

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute FSE2223-52

Public Participation

None.

Minute FSE2223-53

Mars Exhibition

The Committee discussed the successes of the event, the revenue it generated vs cost, visitor numbers, and feedback. It was noted that the event had received a lot of press interest and generated an increased brand awareness for Morecambe which should assist in securing coverage for the King's Coronation event. The Committee agreed the Council should try to hold at least one similar cultural experience each year and it was agreed to look into how it was going to evaluate the future success of events - including the monitoring of economic impact.

Minute FSE2223-54

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was resolved to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following business, on the grounds that it could involve possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Minute FSE2223-55

Festival Grant Application 16

The committee resolved to award £2,000 to the No Dots organisation for the Morecambe Winter Gardens Film and Music Programme 2023.

The Committee also noted it would be interested in forming a future partnership if there was an opportunity to become a headline sponsor.

Minute FSE2223-56

King's Coronation

A presentation was given by officers outlining the key themes for the King's Coronation - including community, environment, and culture.

Members continued discussions about ideas for the King's Coronation and how to incorporate suggestions from stakeholders.

The Committee requested that tables sold for the King's Coronation should first be sold from the West End side of the Promenade, as opposed to the Midland Hotel or Town Hall.

The Committee requested contact be made with the Yacht Club and RNLI to see if it was possible to host a water fleet to celebrate the Coronation, at the same time that the parade was happening on the Promenade.

It was suggested that each child could be given a stick of rock or a badge to mark the occasion.

A poster competition for the schools was also discussed.

The Proper Officer advised members that preliminary pitches has been made to media outlets, and it was looking promising that the BBC may use Morecambe as the anchor for their coverage of the King's coronation celebrations on the day.

It was agreed that delegation would be given to the Proper Officer to make all decisions regarding future events, including expenditure (within the Committee's budget), application of grants, and purchase of 'community equipment/infrastructure' that could be used by all festival and event providers across the town - including, but not limited to, staging, sound systems, lighting, pyrotechnics, and crowd barriers.

The Committee thanked officers for all their hard work to date in producing first class events that were helping to keep Morecambe on the map and receiving recognition both regionally and nationally.

Minute FSE2223-57

Morecambe Pride

The Committee discussed ongoing conversations with Morecambe Pride. The Committee was not in a position to offer a grant, as no grant application for the year had been received.

The Committee agreed there was significant work to be undertaken to address a lack of understanding of LGBT+ issues in Morecambe, particularly amongst some demographics.

Following a suggestion from a member, the Committee agreed to work with local schools and young people to create a safe space where people could discuss issues, and produce a digital booklet/guide/vlog that can be distributed throughout the town to raise awareness of differing life experiences, particularly amongst the gay and trans community. The Committee agreed for the Proper Officer to research and apply for any appropriate grants that may support such an endeavour. A member of the Committee noted a local school teacher who would also be able to provide support.