

MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 6PM

Present: Councillor J Power (Chairman) Councillor W Mulroe, Councillor C Tennant, Councillor J Wright, Councillor S Vickers and Councillor G Isherwood (6.45pm),

In Attendance: Sue Crouch (Town Clerk) Mrs V Symons (Officer), Councillor M Isherwood (6.45pm).

309/14 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Councillor J Jackson and Councillor D Herrington

310/14 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

311/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting is to be opened for the public to address Members on matters relevant to the business of the committee. However residents cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors.

312/14 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

To consider, if thought fit, a resolution under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from any part of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

313/14 MINUTES OF THE EVENTS 2014 WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

- a) 30th January 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Events 2014 Working Party meeting as (a) above and the decisions and recommendations contained therein were approved and signed by the Chairman.

314/14 YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR THE TOWN

Councillor Power explained to the meeting her wish that two Youth Ambassadors (1 male and 1 female), who are Featherstone Town area residents, be appointed instead of a Gala Queen in 2014. She suggested that the appointment would be made by E-act Academy and St. Wilfreds on an annual rotation basis. The Youth Ambassadors would represent and give a voice to the youth of the town and encourage them to become involved and have a stake in their local community. The Town Council would encourage them to attend the council meetings and working parties. It would demonstrate that the council is listening and supporting youth projects of the town. By having two they would also support each other, therefore ensuring that they were not alone at council events.

Councillor Mulroe said that a Gala Queen was essential but he was supportive of the suggestion especially having the youth of the town attending the Council meetings. Councillor Vickers also agreed that the Gala Queen is essential though the Head Boy and Girl of the schools had, in the past attended the Council meetings.

Councillor Power said that by including St Wilfreds all young people could have an interest in local democracy and youth projects. Councillor Tennant added that he was all for Youth Ambassadors, the Council should do all it can to bring young people into the Town Council.

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314/14 YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR THE TOWN Cont'd...

Mrs Symons advised the meeting that she understood the wish for a Gala Queen but young people don't want to undertake the role because of peer pressure and stigma associated with the title. If the Council elected Youth Ambassadors it would get a lot more interest.

Councillor Mulroe understood Mrs Symons thoughts and suggested that the Council brought the age of the Gala Queen down to 11 year olds with the Youth Ambassadors representing the senior youth in the town. Councillor Vickers said that was an excellent idea.

It was then discussed as to whether all junior schools would nominate a child and whether the Mayor made a final choice or as advised by Councillor M Isherwood it could mean that the same school successfully nominate a child every year and she would like to see a rota system for the schools. It was

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the School's Pyramid to explain the changes in selecting a Gala Queen. That the Gala Queen is to be chosen from year 6 Junior School children, rotating each school in turn.

The Committee then went on to discuss the Youth Ambassadors appointment. It was

RESOLVED: That both senior schools were asked to appoint two youth ambassadors, one male one female.

315/14 TWINNING

Councillor Power suggested for her Mayoral year that Town Council Twins with a Welsh mining town of a similar size. Contact has been made with the NCMM for possible Welsh towns and the suggestions of Torfaen County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council or Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council which are all towns with surviving coal mining features.

Councillor Tennant totally and utterly supported this project because of the connections of coal mining and rugby. Councillor M Isherwood also supported the project and added her ancestors came from Wales and asked that we get further details from the Councils named. Councillor G Isherwood said that far more people came from Staffordshire than Wales to Featherstone. It was

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk made contact with the Council's as detailed above for their views.

Councillor Tennant added that it was the 30th Anniversary of the Miner's Strike from 6th March 1984 to 5th March 1985 and suggested that the Council look to having an event to mark the end of the year long strike. This was noted and will be brought forward later in the year.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm