

**MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16th MARCH 2015 at 6
p.m. at the TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr Simon Wiles (Chairman), Cllr George Whiting, Cllr Mrs Pam Whiting, Cllr Bert Jackson, Cllr Richard Gell, Cllr Mrs Anna Sauntson, Cllr Mrs Celia Ingram, Pat Bird, Brenda Lofthouse, Sandra Mitcham (Town Clerk), Danielle Edwards (Admin/Finance Officer), Julie Morriss (Admin Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Cllr Mrs Val Newbery and Cllr Derek Lawson MBE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Simon Wiles – Tourism

Cllr Bert Jackson – Tourism

Cllr George Whiting – Church

Cllr Mrs Celia Ingram - Church

Cllr Mrs Anna Sauntson – Church and Tourism

3. MINUTES

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2015 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. CHRISTMAS SPARKLE 2015

4.1 HIGHAM FERRERS TOURISM. Pat reported that the Stanwick Hand Bells had already been booked and they will play in the Church. The Chantry Chapel cannot be used this year for stalls etc. so Pat wondered if the back of Beans might be able to be utilised for traders. She also asked if lights could be erected in Church Walk to make the area look more festive? Brenda thanked the groups for taking the time to discuss the ideas that Pat had put forward.

4.2 ST MARY'S CHURCH. The theme this year will be 'The Magic of Christmas'. There will be a displays in the Church for which there will be an admission charge but when the Carol Singings are performing there will be no charge for entry.

4.3 HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL. Due to Health and Safety reasons with crowd control Simon explained the revised layout of the proposed Fair, Market and Entertainment, which will include a synthetic ice rink. The Council have made enquiries about ice rinks, but the Fair organiser has

expressed a preference to arrange it, so we are awaiting a feedback from him. Julie to chase him.

The current allocated budget for the event was £1500, but there had been a surplus of £1200 from the 2014 event.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND : that the budget for the Christmas Sparkle is increased to £4000.

Expenditure is reliant on whether we will need to source our own ice skating rink rather than the Fair organising it, plus depending upon what budget is available will determine whether the Events Committee could consider a firework/laser display.

The stage will be outside the 'Old House' to give the public a larger area to see the entertainment. It was suggested that a Brass Band could 'open' the day's events. The performers could be 'spread' over the day, having breaks between each performance, but a timetable should be assembled for display around the town with one person co-ordinating the whole day. Sandra will book the Continental Market. It was agreed to wait until later in the year to decide on whether the Town Crier would be needed. There would only be five individual stalls this year, 2 Rotary groups who have historically always attended and they support the event with marshalling. Cupalicious and the Chestnut Stall as they have attended for many years. Finally the Hog Roast Stall, which is a local butcher and proved to be very popular last year. Charity stalls would be charged £10 each and Traders will be £50.

5. ITEMS TO REPORT

There are a couple of events that could be recognised this year: 70th Anniversary of VE Day and 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 15th June at 6 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date: _____