

**MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11^h OCTOBER 2016 at
6 p.m. at the TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs Pam Whiting (Chairman), Simon Wiles, Cllr Bert Jackson, Cllr Mrs Anna Sauntson, Cllr Jason Smithers, Cllr Mrs Val Newbery, Cllr David Drage, Cllr Mrs Tina Reavey, Sandra Mitcham (Town Clerk), Julie Thorneycroft (Town Manager), Julie Morriss (Admin Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Cllr Peter Tomas and Pat Bird (Tourism). The committee sent their best wishes to Pat for a speedy recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Bert Jackson – Tourism

Cllr Mrs Pam Whiting – Church

Cllr Mrs Anna Sauntson - Tourism

Simon Wiles - Tourism

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No public present.

5. CHRISTMAS SPARKLE 2016.

5.1 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council confirmed that the Fair and Market were all organised, we hope to have a final meeting with them in the next week. Individual stalls will be asked for their rent before the event. Extra to the main events there will be two Rotary stalls, one Round Table, Bobby's Butchers, Cupalicious, Chestnut Man, Youth Group, Rushden Historical Transport x 2. It was suggested that a few charity stalls could be placed along the wider parts of the High Street – Julie to see if anyone would like to have a stall in that area. Cost to charities would be £10. Marshalling volunteers are slow to put their names forward, but a notice will be put on the Town Hall Notice Board and Cllr Sauntson will write a piece in her newspaper column.

5.2 TO UPDATE ON SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager has already had confirmation that 16 shops will be taking part in the Christmas Shop Window Display competition and plans are going well with the Gargoyle Trail for the children. The competitions close on 5th December. The public will choose the winner of the shop display and with the winner of the Gargoyle Trail, the presentations will be made at the Christmas Farmers Market. Julie T is organising posters to be distributed and schools will be contacted. Post boxes for the competitions will be placed around the town i.e. Library, Town Hall.

5.3 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS BY TOURISM

The Hornigold lorry will again be outside 'The Old House' and this year will be decorated to look more like a proper stage. An entertainment programme has been arranged leading up to the switching on of the Christmas lights. Simon is looking for a Barrel Organ to be placed outside the Methodist Church to bring the event further down the High Street. The sleigh will be in Chichele College, along with Father Christmas. Father Christmas will be from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and the Bede House will be open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. The U3A will be in the Churchyard at 2 p.m. 90 Christmas trees will be erected in the town this year and Cllr Sauntson conveyed everyone's thanks for the hard work that Bert and Simon do to make this happen.

5.4 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS BY THE CHURCH

The Church are due to have a meeting on Thursday when more arrangements will be clarified. However, the theme is Christmas trees and the response to have a display in the Church has been very good. The Church will be open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Charge for the event has not yet been decided. Both the Town Council and Tourism will be having a display in the Church.

6.0 FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Sandra explained that there had been a restructure of all Council committees. Therefore, in the future, the Christmas Sparkle/Events would be handled through working parties.

Chairman _____

Date: _____