

**RINGWOOD FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2008  
6.00 PM AT GREENWAYS**

PRESENT: Cllr B Terry (Chairman), Cllr C Ford, Cliff Polton, Jeff Wickens, Lyn Wickens, Peter Alvis, Norman Light, Chris Lockyer, Kevin Morrison

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk, Sue Godwin, P A to the Town Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES:** Sean Aita, Anne Osborne, Cllr N Chard, Cllr J Terry, Lisa Fletcher

2. **PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of 30th June agreed.

**3. REPORTS ON 2008 FESTIVAL EVENTS**

**a) Fashion Parade**

Due to lack of support, unfortunately, Brian Terry, in consultation with Terry Simpson, took the decision to cancel the event on the same day it was due to be held.

**b) Cavalcade of Transport**

This event was unable to proceed, due to travellers having moved onto the site at Avon Heath.

**c) Golf Tournament**

Terry reported that both golf days had raised in excess of £1,200 and, as always, enjoyed by all participants.

**d) Swing Fever – Jazz Concert**

Jeff Wickens reported that everyone enjoyed the event, but did add that there were not enough people supporting the event. Jeff added that it was difficult to pin-point the problem, but it could be connected to publicity and had to question whether it was worth all the effort.

**e) Festival Day**

Lyn Wickens reported that the 50p children's rides were very popular, although the 'bungee run' did not have many participants. Anne Osborne sent in a report stating her thoughts on this year's Festival, namely that whether we would be better to run the Festival only on pedal car years and put a lot of effort into it. She reported that the concert was excellent and it would be good to repeat next year. However, she suggested that the stalls this year did not appear to be as good as previously. Brian commented that the stalls that were most popular seemed to be those that had organised a competition. It was agreed that a list of stall holders who applied to be at the Festival compared with those that actually attended, and how much they took, would be produced for the next meeting.

Kevin Morrison informed the Committee that the Firefighters had spoken to 89 people on Festival day, which he was very pleased about. Cliff Polton stated that he had enjoyed the fire demonstrations very much. Jeff commented that the Judo was also well received.

ACTION Sue Godwin
-------------------

**f) Classical Concert**

Cllr Christine Ford stated the concert was super and enjoyed by all who attended and was delighted to note that it had not made a loss.

**g) Ringwood Rocks**

Peter Alvis reported that both afternoon and evening events went very well, and the stage was excellent. He estimated that at any one time, there were possibly 300 people present. Peter commented that a lot of money was spent on publicising the event. Finally, he

reminded the Committee that it cost around £2,000-£3,000 to put the event on and, in the light of this, questioned whether we ought to utilise the stage more fully over the three days at future Festivals. He did provide a copy of two costing estimates with regard to the stage, etc from Leisure Light and Sound.

#### **h) Youth Football Tournament**

Brian Terry reported that six teams had taken part and all seemed to enjoy the event. Brian presented cups to all participants. The drop-in centre opened for refreshments. Brian commended Steve Simpson for his organisation of the event and added that he believed the facilities/location were excellent. Terry Simpson suggested that the Rugby Club could possibly stage a similar event next year.

#### **i) British Pedal Car Grand Prix**

Cliff reported that the event started brilliantly on the Saturday with the Concours d'Elegance. He also added that there had been massive publicity for the event. He suggested that the event for 2010 may be pushed in the direction of 'Wacky Green Races' and to 'come on your bike.' Cliff added he would not want the event to become any bigger. He stated that the shops really got behind the event, in particular Nero's provided free coffee and doughnuts were provided by a local baker. The total sponsorship money was £15,137.37 – Cliff produced a Financial Statement reflecting this figure.

Cllr Ford pointed out that there were many shop windows in the town which were covered with pedal car literature and, consequently, no room was available to display concert material.

Terry stated that the Festival and Carnival needs to be tied in closer together in future, to prevent chasing of the same money.

#### **4. Statement of Receipts and Payment**

The Committee approved the statement of accounts as at 11<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that there would be approximately £7,500 to be split between the two charities nominated by the Grand Prix organisers and the two charities nominated by the Town Council. As the Festival had not operated at a loss, the £3,000 allocated by the Town Council to underwrite any loss would not be required. However, the Town Council would be asked to consider whether this sum should be carried forward to be added to any budget provision made next year by the Town Council.

Cliff suggested that the Festival Committee look next year at sponsors receiving advertising in exchange for sponsorship.

#### **5. Allocation of Funds to Local Charities**

All Members present acknowledged that Ringwood Town Council's allocation of profits would be shared between the Ringwood Young Firefighters and the British Liver Trust, as previously agreed. Kevin Morrison commented that the young people really enjoyed the weekend and, although it involved two very early starts in the mornings, they showed excellent commitment.

Terry suggested we organised a photo-shoot with the charities nominated to receive funds. Overall, four charities will benefit, plus Salisbury Palliative Care. Jeff Wickens suggested it would be good to have one big photo-shoot. Brian suggested for this to take place in the forecourt of the Fire Station in Christchurch Road, and perhaps Cliff could bring a couple of pedal cars.

ACTION TERRY SIMPSON/SUE GODWIN
---------------------------------

## **6. 2009 Festival**

Terry Simpson stated that it is reasonable to run a Festival every year because organisations and clubs come together and benefit. The Committee was asked to consider if we should focus on a whole weekend of music? It was agreed that publicity needs to be improved, even though the programme was very good, it was thought more flyers were needed. Pete Alvis provided a costing estimate from Leisure, Light & Sound. He pointed out that it would cost £5,500 for a bigger stage. Pete stated that if a music event was spread over three nights, he did not believe it should be on the Bickerley due to difficulties encountered if inclement weather and also the effect on the residents of the Bickerley over this extended period. Members discussed alternative venues in the town. Pete suggested the long stay car park, but this was thought to be a non starter as it is managed by the District Council. Jeff Wickens reminded Committee that if there were more than 500 people likely to attend, we would need to consider obtaining a Licence for this number.

Brian Terry mentioned the Wimborne Music Festival and stated that the main event takes place in the centre of the town, which is always successful and the traders around benefit. A suggestion was made to have a stage erected in front of the Berlin Wall in the Market Place, and Ringwood Rocks take place on Friday evening, Classical Concert on Saturday evening and the bands on Sunday. Cllr Ford did point out that the date already proposed for next year's Festival, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009, had been agreed with the Sinfonia and that they may not be able to change to another date, as this would be desired if Ringwood Rocks event was held on Saturday evening in the Market Place.

Carvers field was also suggested as an alternative venue, however Terry stated that it may be a problem preserving the 'green area' used for cricket, and also pointed out that it would be in the middle of the cricket season. Norman Light suggested that barriers might be used.

Brian Terry asked the Committee to consider the suggested venues, ie. Market Place, Bickerley or Carvers with the theme of a music weekend and also to consider which charities to support next year, emphasising that they should be local charities.

ACTION ALL MEMBERS
--------------------

Cllr Ford was asked if she could approach the Sinfonia about holding the concert on another date.

ACTION CLLR CHRISTINE FORD
----------------------------

## **7. Publicity**

Terry noted that we had not received many volunteers wishing to be on Committee next year, although we had received interest from three members of the Chamber of Commerce, and also Di Cracknell has agreed to be on the Committee. Terry stated that it would be better if specific jobs were taken on by individuals of the Committee so that responsibility for that job would be with that person. Jeff suggested we have one poster for all the events of the Festival. He also said that the smaller charities tend not to ask for money, and they needed to do this in order to be included.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting :**

**MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 6.00 pm at GREENWAYS**