

Worthys Festival AGM

Tuesday 7th November 2017

Worthies Sports & Social Club

Meeting opened 19.35

1. Chair welcomed everyone and thanked all for their input into the preparation and running of this year's Festival.

Robin proposed a vote of thanks to Sarah White for all her hard work in making this year's festival a success

Present: Paul Mckenna(PMcK), Dan Conroy(DC), Jill and Malcolm Prince(JP & MP), Alison Skillen(AS), Jane and Duncan Rutter(JR & DR), Robin Cook(RC), Phil Allen(PA), Sue Tinkler(ST), Sarah White(SW) (Chair), Paul Blythin(PB), Rob Fellows(RF), David and Cheryl Byron(DB & CB)

Apologies: Dorry Lawlor, Paul Young, Gill Froude, Fred Phillips, Julie Mullane, Isabelle Haigh, Louisa Mason

2. Minutes of 2016 AGM accepted

3. Treasurers Report and Statement of Accounts - AS

Income for 2017 Festival	£9125.67
Expenditure	£8709.98

Available balance including the reserves is £1639.22.

Expected another c. £100 expenditure

Projected profit for the 2017 Festival c. £300 to make reserves of c.£1500 towards the next festival

MP commended the outcome, especially as we had to cover the fireworks.

Still expectant of a contribution from the King Charles, as agreed in view of a good crowd for the bar on the Finale evening

RF noted that the beer festival was a sell out by Saturday night this year and made a profit; it is expected that this will be transferred to the Festival funds (c. £150)

AS was congratulated on her excellent work as Treasurer.

4. Feedback

SW handed out a summary of feedback, most positive, some negative and her thoughts on the way forward.

Events particularly enjoyed were the Open Gardens, Music and Food Festival, Craft Show, Beer Festival, the Fireworks and the AGC Band

Winchester Theatre Arts and Worthy Players productions were both sell-outs. Both productions sold tickets at reduced cost for the Festival

Listed were the well-attended events, not always consistent, e.g. some Open Gardens very well attended, some not so, reasons why and ideas for improvement were discussed?

Weather on the first Saturday, with no audience cover didn't help the Jazz and Folk Festival!

Consideration of keeping the big events requiring tentage and stage to one weekend and venue were proposed.

It was suggested that the Jazz could be in the Cart & Horses Function room or alternatively in a separate tent at Eversley at the same time as the Music Festival or on the Sunday

The difficulties of moving the stage up to the King Charles and then having to take down this and the tent at the end of the event in the dark were discussed. Should we consider a paid for mobile, covered stage or maybe look at having the Fireworks in the extended Eversley Park, though it was acknowledged that a prolonged Sunday event in one venue may not be so good and the bus was generally enjoyed

5. SW invited comments and feedback from the meeting

There was significant support in principle for concentrating big events into one weekend, though most felt we should keep the 9-day event, having smaller individual events such as Open Gardens, Street Parties, walks etc over the first weekend.

Timing on the Eversley weekend could be more slick, to avoid a build up of busy periods and changeovers e.g. Beer Festival and Craft Market were particularly busy at the end of the Festival Run, when there were no further activities taking place.

DB made the point that some feedback might be made to the community, to acknowledge the public's input and to encourage attendance to future events. JR is keen that local groups' (scouts, guides, school, businesses etc) contribution is promoted as a recognition of community involvement.

CB commented that she had been available to be involved, but was unsure where many venues were, she felt that the communication could have been more inclusive and reaching out. A map or directions both in the door to door programme and on the website and maybe postcodes for venues might help. We could perhaps encourage neighbourly connection to new residents.

ST offered to work early on in the production of the next Festival's programme, to improve layout, readability and general clarity.

RF thanked the Club and the weather in supporting the beer festival.

Food and music combined worked very well. It is important to be sure that caterers are aware of the success of this year's event, and that there will be a variety of types of food provided – no food supplier can expect to be the sole provider. Ideally, we could have more variety, but for a first go at this, the Food Festival was a big success

The primary school promoted the events, and this was clearly beneficial in terms of encouraging children and hence parents to attend.

Smaller events early in the day can help to build up a critical mass (MP). Noticeable how other events became busy as other events finished. Robin stated that this philosophy could be extended to maintaining a 9-day event.

MP noted that a busy space is a good space, and layouts should be planned with this in mind. DC felt that the Saturday is the best time to effect this, keeping the Sunday for quieter events.

JP and others suggested donations buckets at the fireworks and/or during the Eversley events; contributions could be half charity, half festival?

JR is keen that open access and low cost is kept as one of the USPs of the Festival.

JR asked about the buses, there was a grant received to lay this service on. SW had not yet received feedback from the company, this to be chased. Early exploration of WCC grants was advocated to maximise "best fit" options.

JR felt the tack of the Church Green event could be reviewed in conjunction with the timings and provision of the Church fete. The Festival had been timed specifically not to clash with this, but during one year, the Church moved their fete to coincide with the Festival. During the last two Festivals turnout for the Church Green event has been disappointing. There does not seem to have enough going on with just the music and refreshments to build a big participation

ST noted that timing is difficult with school and university, both excluding students and making it difficult for parent helpers. Reasoning for the mid-September week is that August being a holiday month, would make an early September festival too much of a rush. Having the primary school back for a week or two also helps raise interest within school and hence attendance numbers. It was raised that Kings Barton inclusion should be considered into the future, as currently it is within the HWPC boundary. CALA homes could be asked to contribute. The Square Mile competition attracted a good number of voters, indicating a greater interest for a future repeat, and a longer display. The Workstead could potentially host a display.

PA reported that the archaeological dig was positively received, and hopes to progress this project further, maybe separate to the Festival

6. Election of officers

Chair - SW stepped down. JR stepped up, was proposed by SW and seconded by AS. Full committee support for JR to re-take the chair

AS proposed to continue as Treasurer by SW, ST seconded – full committee support

DL stepped down as Secretary, PA proposed SW, seconded by JR – full committee support

7. Vice Chair role pending

Social Media co-ordinator - AS has someone in mind

Sponsorship champion - JR to approach potential candidate

PA to take on role of H&S Officer

8. Constitution

AS is now a cheque signatory. The delay was an issue of timing of her taking on the role as Treasurer. AS would like to investigate online banking, all in support in principle, providing that there is a dual signature. PMcK pointed out that a constitutional change might be required, but on discussion it was felt that the constitution covered the issue.

No further constitutional changes are currently thought to be needed at present.

9. PMcK. Suggested the idea of a sports zone for the "empty" field during the Eversley Weekend and will investigate possibilities.

Having discussed lots of options already it was agreed to further brainstorm at our first meeting next year

In or to avoid a clash with the church "away weekend", the dates of 14th to 22nd September 2019 for the next Festival were agreed

10. AOB – nil

11. Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 6th February 2018 8.00pm at the WSCC, in the table tennis room if available

Meeting closed 21.11 hours