

Minutes of the Events Advisory Committee of Dronfield Town Council
Meeting held on 11th February 2025 at 10:00am in the Council Chamber, Dronfield

Present: Cllr S. Burkitt (Chair), Cllr M Ireland, Cllr C Smith and Cllr P Jones

In attendance: M. Keys (Assistant Clerk), L. Stonehouse (Projects and Communications Officer)

Cllr S Burkitt chaired the meeting in the absence of (Chair) Cllr M Emmens.

1. Apologies

Cllr M Emmens sent her apologies.

2.. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3.. Approval of minutes

Members received a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting.

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Events Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 10th of December 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Any items for exclusion of the public

There were no items for discussion which required the public to be excluded.

5. Santa's Grotto/Christmas Fest Review

Alan and Liz Hepworth from Dronfield Rotary Club joined the meeting.

The members and Rotary Club discussed Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Lights Switch on 2024.

The Project and Communications Officer reviewed the Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Light Switch on 2024 and noted the following:

The queue which wasn't to exceed the length of the designated space (half the length of the stage) and was the responsibility of the Rotary Club to monitor (as stated in an email) was continually disregarded, despite repeated reminders from the Project and Communications Officer

Fire exits were continually blocked with people queueing to see Santa, against repeated advice from the Project and Communications Officer to keep the area clear of people.

Liz Hepworth proposed that next year it would be beneficial to have another set of stairs at the other end of the stage to allow for a one-way system of people entering and exiting the stage.

Alan Hepworth mentioned that there has been an increase in SEN children attending Santa's Grotto. The Assistant Clerk suggested that Santas grotto could be moved to an alternative location in either the Council Chamber or an outside area, to meet access requirements for children with disabilities.

Alan Hepworth proposed bringing the large Santa sleigh to the Christmas Lights Switch on 2025. The Project and Communications Officer noted this and recommended holding Santa's Grotto in the Civic Centre area.

It was RESOLVED to note these suggestions and include these ideas within the planning for the 2025 Christmas Lights Switch On.

Alan and Liz Hepworth left the meeting at 10:21am.

6. VE Day

Members discussed the plans for the VE Day 80th Anniversary.

Members were informed that Keith Burkitt has been asked to perform 1940's music and Miniver Academy have agreed to perform period-era dancing.

It was RESOLVED to note this.

It was RESOLVED to ask Andy Gore to perform the blessing.

7. Covid-19 Day of Reflection

Members discussed possible plans for the day of reflection.

It was resolved to publish the information on the council website, request Andy Gore to include Covid-19 Day of Reflection in the Sunday sermon, and mention the Covid-19 Day of Reflection at the full council meeting.

8. Dronfield Gala

The Projects and Communication Officer gave an update on the Gala for 2025. Members were updated on the current number of stalls, outside attractions, and food stands.

1 x Charity stall

4 x Commercial stalls

7 x Food and drink stalls

Members were informed of new attractions for the 2025 Gala: Spinning Bumper Cars in both small and large sizes.

It was RESOLVED to book both attractions for the Gala.

Members reviewed quotes for the hiring of first aid for the Gala.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to council accept the quote of £1,940 from Aplus Medical to provide first aid for all Dronfield Town Council events for 2025

£240 for VE Day

£1200 for the Gala

£500 for Christmas Light Switch on

Remembrance Day – free of charge

Total - £1,940

9. Remembrance Day 2025

Members discussed the quote for the public address system.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to council accept the quote of £288.00 to provide a public address system at the Remembrance Day parade.

10. Christmas Light Switch On 2025

Members reviewed quotes for the hiring of Security for the Christmas Lights Switch On 2025.

This was deferred until the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is yet to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.59 am.