

**RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**  
**Held 7.00 p.m. 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the Mayor's Parlour, Richmond Town Hall**

PRESENT: Councillors: C. World (Chair)  
J. Robinson  
R. Holmes  
B. Heap  
R. White  
E. Hignett  
D. Johnson  
J. Harris

In attendance: Town Clerk - Miles Templeton  
Joyce Chaudri (Allotments Representative)  
Geoff Lloyd (Cycling Club)  
Fred Wood (Civic Society)  
Frank Stockton (Richmond Meet and Duck Club)  
Andy Martin-Harper (AMH Electricals)  
Sally Reckert (TRY)  
Rev. Keith Hall (Kings Church)

**1. Apologies**

Councillor M McGarry

**2. Public Open Session**

There were no questions raised by the members of the public in attendance

**3. Declarations of Interest**

As and when

**4. Chairman's comments**

The Chairman remarked that consideration would need to be given shortly about what arrangements the Town Council might wish to make in order to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

**5. Town Clerk's update**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on all actions arising from the November meeting. All of these had been carried out.

## **6. Christmas Lights 2010/11**

Councillor Johnson gave a long list of thanks to people and organisations who had contributed to the success of this event. These included Richmond Duck Club, Richmond Round Table, the Kings Church, the judges of the window competition, Councillor Cooper and the ladies who had served the mince pies, the Town Clerk, Charlie Wells, Andy Macey the office staff and Andy Martin-Harper and his team who had erected and taken down the Christmas Lights. He stated that various members of the public had commented to him that the lights were improving all the time and that those around the obelisk were particularly attractive. He noted that the Round table tree had been put up and taken down very efficiently and quickly but that the railings which had been put around the tree were ugly. He stated that these railings could be decorated in 2011/12 to alleviate this. There had been a problem with two of the catenary wires and that repairs had been effected by Charleston at no charge to the Council. He had negotiated with AMH electrics for the provision of the 'Welcome to Richmond' lights at a rate considerably cheaper than that which had been quoted elsewhere. Frank Stockton stated that he was very disappointed, again, that there had been so little interest shown by the shop-owners within the town in the window decorating. Councillor Johnson asked Mr Stockton if the Duck Club would be willing to take on the full responsibility for the lights in the Friary Gardens if the Town Council agreed to donate the appropriate lights and continued to pay for the necessary insurance. Mr Stockton responded by saying that they would be willing to do so but that the Duck Club would reserve the right to decorate the gardens in any way they saw fit and may not retain the existing configuration.

**Proposed:** Councillor Johnson

**Seconded:** Councillor Hignett

**RESOLVED: To donate the Christmas Lights used in Friary Garden to Richmond Duck Club and to pay for insurance costs associated with them.**

**Proposed:** Councillor Johnson

**Seconded:** Councillor Harris

**RESOLVED: To provide the window competition cups to the judges the week before the switch on of the Christmas Lights in order to allow the judges to carry out the judging at a time to suit both them and those traders wishing to take part in the competition.**

Mr Stockton stated that it would be necessary to liaise with the shop owners in advance of the proposed day of judging to ensure that the windows would be ready in time.

Councillor Johnson also wished to make a recommendation about the frequency of the catenary wire check. The Town Clerk stated that he would work with Councillor Johnson in order to cost out the most suitable alternative for this check, ensuring best value for money.

**Proposed:** Councillor World

**Seconded:** Councillor Harris

**RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be given to Councillor Johnson for the excellent work he has carried out in order to make the 2010/11 event a success**

The Town Clerk was instructed to write to all of the appropriate parties identified by Councillor Johnson formally expressing the thanks of the Town Council for their support.

#### **7. Floral Decorations**

Councillor Hignett confirmed that the closing date for participation in the 2011 Open Gardens competition would be 30<sup>th</sup> May and that the judging of the competition would take place on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Open Gardens event would take place on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Fireworks Update**

Councillor Robinson had nothing to report.

#### **9. Allotments – Update and the Future.**

Mrs Chaudhary reported that the moles had reappeared at Westfields. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the mole catcher to address this problem in the short term. Councillor Heap addressed the meeting to state that in light of the current economic situation it might be an appropriate time to consider the possibility of establishing three separate Allotment trusts, one at each location, so that allotment holders could organise and run each of the site for themselves. It was noted that this would require detailed consideration about proposed rents, fencing costs, terms of reference, organisational procedures and so on. At this stage Councillor Heap was keen to express that he was merely proposing an idea but that he would like allotment holders to be able to give the matter some serious consideration. A formal approach to allotment holders may be made at some time in the near future.

Councillor Harris informed the meeting that the proposed Quarry Road allotment site may not come to fruition but that an alternative site in the ‘Coffin Field’ had been identified. Councillor Harris asked the Town Clerk to consult with RDC to ascertain the likely costs of preparing this field for allotment cultivation. Mrs Reckert informed the meeting that the field had recently been planted with wild flowers and it may not therefore be a suitable location if RDC had other plans for it. The Town Clerk agreed to consult with Gary Hudson on the matter.

#### **10. Community Events - Cycling**

Mr Lloyd informed the meeting that the National Mountain Bike Championships were to be held in the grounds of Aske Estate during the weekend of July 16/17 2011. He added that an ‘urban’ event may be arranged for Friday July 15<sup>th</sup> within Richmond town. The Town Clerk agreed to add this event to the 2011 calendar of events.

#### **11. Civic Events – Boundary Riding**

The Town Clerk gave an update on the planning for the 2011 Boundary Riding. He stated that he was working in consultation with Carol Ord, the Assistant Town Clerk, on the planning for this. He had arranged a meeting with the landowners in late February and he was also consulting with REME to establish the extent of support that they could provide. He was asked to consider using Swaledale Fell Rescue for the first aid support and he agreed to liaise with them. He was also asked to liaise with Richmondshire Museum so that a display on the event could be located within the Museum from Spring 2011 onwards. He was also asked to consider inviting commercial fast food suppliers to attend the event so that hot food could be available to participants to purchase at various stages along the route.

## **12. Dates and Organisation**

It was agreed that the Town Council should do something to recognise the 2012 Diamond Jubilee and the Town Clerk was asked to ensure that this item be placed upon the agenda for the next meeting of the Communities Committee.

## **13. Carol Concert**

The Town Clerk was asked to ensure that the Church and Leyburn band were both booked for the 2011 event.

## **14. Publicity**

The 2011 Boundary Riding required a large amount of publicity and it was agreed that, in the first instance, the Town Clerk be asked to provide some material on the Pinder to Councillor Hignett so that she could produce an article suitable for publication in the local press.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm