

COWBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL - COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2025

Present:

Heather Weddell (HW) - Mayor
Lianne Evans (LE) – Councillor/Resident
Sue Jenkins (SJ) – Resident
Tracy James – Lieberman (TJL) – Resident/Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival
Alan Thomas (AT) – Resident
Non Smith (NS) – Resident
Sam Smith (SS) – Resident
Tim Bird (TB) – Resident
Andrew Niland (AN) – Resident
Katie Harbach (KH) – Resident
Hannah Niland (HN) – Resident
Minutes taken by Sue Jenkins

No formal apologies received

Matter arising from notes of last meeting

Parade timing – The date will be 30th November 2025. It was agreed that potentially we could start the parade half an hour earlier, bearing in mind that Waitrose is still open until 4pm on a Sunday and so this would have to be taken into account. It was also queried as to whether we actually need to have the road closures in place owing to the cost involved.

Live Reindeer – Support has generally been positive to have the live reindeer back and if the council is not in receipt of the funding from Vale of Glamorgan Council (VOG) then the condition not to have live animals is removed. However if there is no VOG funding, then funding would need to come from sponsorship – options for this are currently being explored.

NS had conducted a poll in which people had voted in favour of having the reindeer. She is aware of a contact in Brecon who would be prepared to provide up to 8 reindeer for the parade with the opportunity for a petting session beforehand. She also informed of the availability of Newfoundland dogs, ponies and a band to join the parade.

Grotto – was very successful however it is a lot of work to set up and run and for future years would need some more investment.

SS suggested the possibility of holding a Children's Tea Party with Santa in the upstairs hall in the Town Hall. There could be a nominal charge for this. This possibility is to be further investigated.

Christmas markets – Unfortunately 1 day of the 2 last year saw the market being cancelled because of extremely poor weather conditions and poor footfall on the 2nd day for the same reasons.

TJL suggested the possibility of having the stalls for "dry goods" inside the Lesser Hall if the weather should be bad with just the food stalls outside and to limit the Christmas market to just 1 day rather than 2.

New proposals:

Light show – AT has been investigating the possibility of a laser light show. The cost for this would be approx. £1875.00 and this would be for 2 x ½ hour slots, potentially at the rear at the Town Hall building. It was agreed that this would be a good addition.

Compere – SS informed the group that Holly (? Surname) had potentially agreed to compere on the stage at Christmas and could organise a DJ.

Theme/Light Switch on – It was suggested that there should be a ‘theme’ for the parade and that people should be encouraged to dress up according to the theme.

Note: if the panto is going to have a “Frozen” themed show this year (see previous minutes) could we tie in with that theme?

SS also suggested that we could run a competition for children so that the winner could switch on the Christmas lights.

VE Day Celebrations Monday 5th May 2025

Bear field, stage and sound system has already been booked for this date.

Gazebos have been booked from VOG. Line dancing and belly dancing and Aubrey Parsons already booked so far for the stage. The funfair will also be present again.

TJL is organising the food stalls and Jayne from the Horse & Groom will provide a Gin bar as at previous events.

HW to contact Rotary, Ministry and Lions to see if they require stalls again, also to contact Island Farm to see if there may be any VE themed resource available.

NS suggested a Pet Show for the children where any pets could be entered with several categories. She will look into organising this.

SS suggested the possibility of an evening event to tie in with this weekend, probably on Saturday 3rd May. This idea was well received and so she will look into organising this with the help of TB.

TJL now has a personal licence she said she could be here to cover for this event.

It was also suggested that the town should be themed for this event, e.g. by asking businesses to them their windows. It was agreed to source bunting for the High Street, if not already some at the Town Hall then this could possibly be made beforehand by members ?

AOB:

It was discussed that we as a whole should be more pro-active on all social media platforms for our events and see if we can improve publicity e.g. put out notifications early, “Save the Date” notifications etc. **HW** to speak to Tom about this.

It was agreed by all members present to set up a Community Working Group WhatsApp group and all present at this meeting agreed for their numbers to be added to this.

SJ to set up this group and when minutes are distributed she will ask members of the group not present at this meeting whether they are willing to provide their numbers to be added.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th February @ 6.30pm.