

- By 2014 the journal organisers realised that cassette tapes were outdated and they moved to digital recording and circulation by USB sticks
- With the use of further grant funding from the Town Council and donations they were able to purchase enhanced recording equipment and sound mixers to improve the quality of recording and service to users.

Mr Smith summarised his presentation by stating that today the service supplied the talking newspaper to 69 listeners which were largely referrals from the Social Services Sensory team. The service is still free to listeners and the team of 24 volunteers, work each Friday to capture news, edit articles to fit within the time frame of 90 minutes; record and despatch via Freepost.

The Charity had recently celebrated their 2000th edition and their 40th Anniversary with special guest the Right Honourable Ann Widcombe in attendance and, who they were delighted to report that, she had accepted their invitation as Patron of Dyrons Talking Newspapers. He invited questions from Members. The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his hospitality extended to her at the recent AGM and Anniversary celebrations.

The Chairman thanked Mr Smith on behalf of the Town Council for his informative presentation, whereupon he left the meeting.

457. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

A(i). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 15th MARCH 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee – held on 15th March 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

A(ii). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 22nd MARCH 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 22nd March 2017 be hereby approved and adopted.

458. **CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS**

Further to Minute 17/02 (374) the Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to provide an update on the Christmas Lights 2017. Mrs Hicks informed Members that following a number of meetings with alternative prospective contractors a formal quote had been accepted from Festive Lighting and the contract would be accepted subjected to agreement on the motif designs and colours. The Contractor would be appointed for a five-year period to include; the supply of motifs; installation and removal of lights; support for switch on and the storage of motifs when not in use. Mrs Hicks reported that she anticipated that the increase in cost of £2,500 could be met by additional sponsorship. Having met with alternative contractors, officers were confident that Festive Lighting offered best value overall.

Following her update Mrs Hicks presented slides which illustrated the proposed colour and design scheme for Members consideration. The Chairman thanked the Events Co-ordinator and Town Clerk for their considerable efforts in sourcing an alternative contractor and for the extensive survey which identified that a number of neighbouring towns and parishes had experienced similar difficulties. Members noted that this was a worthwhile exercise and thanked the Chairman for her time and efforts in supporting officers in securing a new provider.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

the Council endorsed the actions taken by the Chairman and officers in relation to Christmas Illuminations 2017.

459. **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Chairman reminded Members that further to Minute 16/07(119) the Town Clerk had now received the full report following a specialist survey of the War Memorial. She invited the Clerk to provide a summary of the report and its findings. The Clerk presented the key findings and recommended areas for refurbishment contained within the report. He reminded that due to a relisting by Historic England the pillars and surrounding railings were also included in the site. The survey recommended that the site be surrounded by scaffolding to ensure a weather proof environment whilst works were undertaken and it was noted that this would not coincide with Remembrance Sunday. It further recommended that the bronze figured statue at the top of the tower be cleaned, burnished and waxed as part of the restoration and would require annual maintenance thereafter. Given the location of the Memorial statue, continued emissions from motor vehicles would accelerate the deterioration without the specialist cleaning. Councillor Pilkington requested confirmation of the metal in the stature as he would consult a specialist metallurgist prior to a final decision being made. It was noted that grant funding would be available to the Council during the commemorative period marking WWI and this would provide income to support the costs of the restorative works. The Clerk reported that given the highly specialist works necessary the cost of the restoration was unknown at this stage.

In summarising his presentation, the Clerk informed Members that consideration would need to be given to the railings surrounding the Memorial. The current 'spear' topped railing had been highlighted as a potential safety risk. In light of this, the surveyor had suggested the 'spear' tops be removed and replaced with 'ball' tops to avoid potential injury. Members discussed the importance of recognising the potential risk of harm, balanced with maintaining a listed monument in its existing form.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that a) the specialist survey be noted, b) the Clerk to report back with details of the cost of restoration and c) that the Risk Assessment for Remembrance Sunday to include measures to ensure the public are protected from any danger offered by the railings.

460. **BEATING OF THE BOUNDS 2017**

The Chairman invited Councillor Mike Ryan to update Members on the forthcoming event. Councillor Ryan reported that the event would be held on 30th September and 1st October 2017 to coincide with the tide times and would start from the Town Quay. He added that the Deputy Town Clerk would contact the land owners on the route to inform them of the details. He invited all Members to participate.

461. **NEWTON'S PLACE**

The Chairman invited the Chairman of Newton's Place Project Board to provide an update to Members on the project. Councillor Mike Ryan thanked the Chairman and reported that there had been an additional Open Day to coincide with the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday 8th April which had attracted an additional 83 visitors. He welcomed Nigel Canham's involvement in promoting the project and reminded Members that the Council

would hear from the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the application on 21st June 2017. The Chairman thanked Councillor Ryan for his update whereupon Members discussed the project proposals and ethically sourced, alternative and supplementary funding.

462. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee for the period 1st April 2016 to 28th February 2017 (previously circulated). Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the Income and Expenditure statement for Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted; and
- b) the budget for the Community and Heritage Committee with particular focus on the costs of running the Newfoundland Way public conveniences, be reviewed in November 2017 as part of the annual budget review.

463. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be a Meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee will be held on Wednesday 21st June 2017



Chairman