

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Extraordinary Full Town Council held at 12.30pm
on Wednesday, 6th October 2021 at Caldicot Town Council
(Hybrid meeting held in person and via Starleaf)

Present:	Cllrs:	RJ Higginson	J Harris
		W Conniff	M Mitchell
		A Easson	F Rowberry
		O Edwards	M Stevens
		D Evans	

[In attendance: S King, Acting Clerk; B Hodges]

10496 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Bond, R Garrick, P Stevens, C Watkins, R Wilsher.

10497 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10498 Presentation Fireworks Events – Events ML Ltd

The Mayor welcomed representative from Events ML Ltd, who had been invited to the meeting, to update on Fireworks events. The invitation to the meeting followed an update on Caldicot Events Committee at the last Town Council meeting.

Caldicot Town Council had requested further information regarding Fireworks Events 2021.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Background of Events ML Ltd
- Consideration of ‘what’s required’ for a Fireworks Event 2021 (location, date, capacity, infrastructure, budget, community feel, scale of event)
- Provision of, stage platform, lighting, audio, emergency PA, fencing and site prep, firefighting equipment and safety, toilet facilities, power generation, communications, security, medical, firework show, ticket management, promotional material, waste management, funfair, food/drink, band, site manager, production manager, video streamer and safety officer plus relevant licences.
- Budget – attendees 3000 = £28,566 (income from ticket sales £6,000 *[based on 2000 @£3 sale price]*, vendors/fair £1,000)
- Larger scale event – capacity 7,000 = £44,106 (income from ticket sales - 4,500 tickets at £3 each)

During the presentation Events ML Ltd highlighted that there was not sufficient time to organise road closures for 2021 events and there would be no parking at the venue.

Increased consideration would have to be given for security, health checks (covid pass) due to the pandemic.

Town Council comments were noted as follows:

- In response to a query raised regarding parking, it was highlighted that as an event would be aimed at local people there would be minimal requirement for parking. Town Council expressed concern that there should be parking available for any event, particularly in relation to the effect on neighbouring streets and emergency vehicle access.
- Clarification was required regarding siting of smaller event, in comparison to a larger event. It was noted that the event for 3,000 capacity would be held inside the castle walls and capacity for 7,000 would be in the wider castle grounds.
- General feeling was that arranging an event for 2021 would be too ambitious and it was suggested that a 2022 event could be incorporated into the Queen's jubilee.
- A member raised a question, as to why the Town Council had not been approached earlier in the year. It was noted that Caldicot Events committee had been approached in relation to the Carnival and asked whether there were any plans for Fireworks 2021. A verbal update was provided at the last Town Council meeting that Events Committee had not arranged fireworks for 2021 and a presentation was arranged.
- A comment was made that ticket sales for future events should be available at the gate, as well as online advance sales.
- Concerns were raised regarding the cost of an event at short notice and this could not be supported in the current financial climate. It was suggested that Mon CC were approached regarding arrangements of a 2022 event and that they contracted out to potential suppliers in accordance with relevant contract requirements.
- It was highlighted that arrangements for events would be further complicated following the introduction of the Covid pass in Wales. Increasing the need for further checks and security staff.
- Town Council expressed support for community events, however, it was recognised that any event should be inclusive and provide social benefit.

Town Council thanked the representative from Events ML Ltd for attending the meeting and highlighted that it was too short notice to arrange an event for 2021.

Town Council highlighted that previous Fireworks Events had been arranged by Monmouthshire County Council, with financial support from Caldicot Town Council. Caldicot Town Council were not aware of any displays being arranged for 2021 by Monmouthshire County Council. Town Council welcomed further discussions with Mon CC to discuss potential events for 2022 and incorporation of the Queens Jubilee.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Town Council do not proceed with any arrangements for Fireworks events for 2021, this was due to the costs and arrangements involved.

Caldicot Town Council agreed that it was not in a position to arrange any event for November 2021.

The meeting ended 1.15pm