

AGENDA ITEM 9b

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Wednesday 28th August 2024** at **2.00pm**

PRESENT

- Wayne Southall (Chairman), Tavistock Town Council, General Manager
- Rebecca Rowe, Tavistock Town Council, Works Manager
- Laura Harley, Support Officer (General Manager)
- Graham Bailey, Stagecoach
- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- PC Wayne Thielman, Devon & Cornwall Police
- PC Jenny Mashford, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Cllr Paul Ward, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Mandy Ewings, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Paul Congo, Tavistock Lions
- Karen Proctor, West Devon Borough Council
- Tim Beckett, SWAST
- Chris Peacock, Raynet
- Drew Brook, Raynet
- Tony Mogford, TMA
- Katherine Steer, Cattle Market
- James Coole - DSFRS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Tom Shiell – DSFRS
- Anne Marie Palmer – Devon & Cornwall Police
- Richard Pryce, DCC
- Millie Hall, DCC
- Robert Kefford, Showmen's Guild
- Dave Williams, DSFRS
- Carl Hearn, Tavistock Town Council, Town Clerk
- Stuart Gardner, AA Signs
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- Alan Wroath, Tavistock Lions
- Lesley Reeves, Community and Compliance Officer
- Janna Sanders, BID
- Holly Davies, St John Ambulance
- Julie Sadler, St John Ambulance
- Jill Sloane, Tavistock Hospital

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes from 29th February 2024.
The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the Meeting.

b) Matters arising
There were no matters for consideration.

3. GENERAL UPDATE / CHANGES

The Works Manager gave an update on arrangements for this year's Goose Fair scheduled to be held on Wednesday 9th October. In regards to the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, the Works Manager advised this year the notice included Westbridge Industrial Estate following issues with parking on the main road into the estate in previous years.

In addition, it was noted the Works Manager had been working with Devon County Council with regards to Chapel Street to address the issues of 2023 where a number of residents received a parking ticket. It has been agreed, those who reside on Chapel Street could apply to the Town Council for a permit which must be displayed in their car. Garden Lane and West Avenue would also be included within this scheme. TTC will write to the residents concerned inviting them to apply for a permit. The Works Manager expressed her thanks to DCC for their help and support in achieving this positive outcome.

The Works Manager was pleased to confirm Raynet would be supporting the event once again this year in the same format as they had done a few years ago, where a control centre would manage communications for the event.

It was noted, following a significant increase in costs with the current provider, the waste management contract had been let to a new contractor. The new firm, who are local to the area have an excellent relationship with the Showmen's Guild as well as vast experience of working events similar to Goose Fair. The change in the waste management contract is a significant alteration to the event, which the Town Council continue to work closely with WDBC on to ensure continuity to visitors of the event as well as residents of the town in respect of the clean up provision and welfare.

With regard to pitches, the Works Manager advised there was still approximately 167FT available to let excluding Market Road although there were some outstanding applications waiting to be processed. As with the trend noted in the last couple of years, it continues to be increasingly difficult to attract new, diverse traders to the event.

The Cattle Market are hoping to hold a small event on 9th October but are unlikely to hold an auction of geese due to Avian Flu.

The event would be advertised via Social Media, Okelinks, the Tavistock Times and other local papers, subject to budgets.

The Works Manager stated that there would be three SIAs employed this year – one for the Alexander Centre and two others patrolling throughout the event. This was following a couple of ASB incidents that occurred during the 2023 event.

4. PARK AND RIDE

It was confirmed the Park & Ride arrangements would mirror those of 2023. Stagecoach would run the first bus from Yelverton at 8.30am and from Whitchurch Down at 9.00am with a service every 10-15 minutes throughout

the day. It was hoped to run an open-top bus from Yelverton as this had proved popular in 2023.

The event is scheduled to close to the public at 9pm with the last park and ride buses leaving the town at around 9.15pm. It was noted the park and ride timetables were available on the town council website.

This Lions had raised some issues at the wash-up meeting in February. A motorist had got stuck on a rock at Yelverton and the Lions would ensure that this did not happen again.

The Lions asked if cones could be delivered to sites the day before or on the morning of the event. The Works Manager advised this might be possible for Gulworthy but not at the other two sites which are unmanned.

There was still an issue with the signage at Gulworthy but the Lions would probably have an extra member of staff on hand to deal with any traffic issues.

It was noted that Raynet would have a presence at all three sites.

The Works Manager confirmed an email to Councillors would be forthcoming requesting volunteer stewards at the event.

5. FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

The WDBC representative confirmed members of staff from the Borough Council be on duty and available throughout the event.

The Showmen's Guild representative stated that they were in the third year of a three-year agreement for the use of Bedford car park and the bus station. A request was made from the Showmen's Guild that the Bedford car park toilets remained open and a supply of water made available, following issues in previous years.

The draft Emergency Planning document had been circulated to members for review.

With regard to first aid provision, St John Ambulance would be on site from 8.00am – 10.00pm and SWAST from 9.00am – 9.00pm. The Tavistock Hospital would be open and details were on the website. It was noted due to increasing costs, the first aid provision would be reviewed, with the market tested in 2025.

The local fire crew confirmed they would carry out a drive through of the event prior to it opening and would be carrying out spot checks.

Cllr Ward thanked all involved with Goose Fair for their efforts. The Works Manager thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th September at 2pm.