 WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House

Jury Street

WARWICK

CV34 4EW

Tel: 01926 411694

 Jayne Topham

 Town Clerk

 **ECONOMIC & TOURISM COMMITTEE**

**28th SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor J Darcy (sub)

Councillor M Edwards Councillor Mrs M Mangat

Councillor J Sinnott Councillor D Skinner

Councillor J Sullivan Councillor P Wightman (Chair)

**Co-opted Members:**

Mrs S Butcher Chamber of Trade, Mrs A Preston Supervisor VIC, Tim Clark St Mary’s, Mr Aaron Corsi WCC, and Jo Randall WDC Events.

**MINUTES**

**13. Apologies:** The Mayor**,** Councillor D Browne, Councillor Ms K Dray sent their apologies – it

was resolved to accept them.

 Mrs J Baldry B & B Mr T Williams Warwick Racecourse Liam Bartlett Warwick Castle sent

 their apologies.

**14. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.** None.

**15. Matters arising from previous minutes** – Alice from the VIC had carried out some research

regarding Coach Companies – she advised that Visitor Guides were being sent to them to

 encourage users to go to other sites in Warwick during their visit.

**16. Chamber of Trade** -Sue Butcher Chair gave Councillors an update. A member’s meeting is

scheduled for the 4th October for members and new members. Victorian Evening is 23rd

 November this year – a banner will be placed in the square to help residents with the change

 as it is normally the last Thursday in November.

 **EMPR 2023/24 –** report provided. Globe Trotter TV were in Warwick producing a

programme about the town. Thanks, given to those who were hosting. Summary of

 activities attached.

**17. WDC Parking Fees and Charges 2023-4** – Neil Bridges WDC Reported that car parking

charges were set to increase by 10% in the new year.

 Linen Street car park was being maintained and no firm plans were in place for its removal.

 Concerns were raised about the ability to pay for parking if you don’t have an App. New

 machines, on street, were being installed to allow for car payments.

 Free parking days – Neil will find out if the parking has to be free all day. Small Business

 Saturday and Victorian evening from 3pm were selected.

 Comments were made about the electronic parking signs advising you on the number of

 spaces available – it was felt the numbers didn’t change – Aaron Corsi WCC will find out and

 report back.

**18. Visitor Information Centre & Town Ambassadors -** Supervisor Mrs A Preston reviewed

her report.

**19. Wayfinding project update** – Presenting the next stage -Ian Whybrow gave Councillors a

background to the project and allowed discussion on the proposal. A meeting will be

 organised regarding installation.

**20. Grant applications**

 **Warwick District Scouts - £3,000**

 **Chase Meadow Community Centre - £2,497.73**

 Following a discussion, it was resolved to approve both grants.

**21. Warwick Town Visioning Workshop** - 9th October – Aaron Corsi

Lead Commissioner Places Projects and Partnerships gave an overview of the event.

 The workshop will be delivered by the Warwickshire Towns Network team, who are

 utilising resources from the High Streets Task force and the Institute of Place

 Management to assess the vitality and viability of a place, and apply that process to

 Warwick in planning a ‘Town’ and ‘High Street’ that is sustainable into the future**.**

 Findings from the workshop will be reported back to our next meeting.

**22. Terms of reference for Economic & Tourism Committee** –it was resolved for Cllr D Skinner

and Cllr P Wightman to review the document with a view to bringing this item to the next

 meeting.

**23. Co-opted Members to report**

 **Warwick Castle:**

 The Castle had a positive Summer of trading with visitor volumes recovering close to 2019

 levels. The 6-week summer period continues to be our most important trading period in

 the year. The series of concerts and events held across the summer proved very popular

 with good attendance across the board.

 The Halloween period with school holidays falling across two weeks nationally meaning

 our Halloween trading period with run from 21st Oct – 5th November.

 The lodge drive walkway from the Banbury Road roundabout up to the Stables

 Car Park will close this week until mid-November to enable our Halloween events along

 with the annual maintenance work that takes place down here. Following Halloween, they

 move straight into the Christmas offer which has been growing over the last few years,

 2023 sees the return of the Ice Rink, Outdoor Light Trail and Storytime with Santa

 experiences along with castle wide Christmas Decorations. Building works on our Hotel

 continue despite significant contractor and cost challenges, the forecasted opening date is

 now June 2024. Liam has created a WhatsApp group for all hospitality and leisure

 businesses to create a network/communications list, after Halloween there will be a

 networking event at the Castle to explore in more detail how we can support the wider

 economy of the town.

 **Warwick Racecourse:** First meeting of the season was on Monday – all went well. Sales

for rest of the year are strong. Warwick Winter Festival – 7th & 8th November

 **Warwick District Council Events**: Warwick Mop - Remembrance services and Victorian

 Evening are being prepared for.

 **St Mary’s –** Rivr are creating a 3D model of the church – how it was before the great fire.

 The Tower should be clear of scaffolding by February 2024.

 **Signed………………………………………………….. Dated………………….**