

**Town Events Sub-Committee Meeting
Friday 16th February 2018**

PRESENT

Cllr Jennifer McGee (Chair), Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Eileen Burt, Richard Hunter (Run Nation), Kris Westerby (NCC Highways), Andrew Murgatroyd (NCC Highways), Paul Carr (NCC Highways)

1. Miners Race Route

NCC Officers reported that the current route running through the town twice could not be supported and created both highways and safety issues. The main cause for concern was the crossroads at the bottom of South Road and the 4-way lights at the top of Station Bank.

Kris Westerby advised that in 2016 they raised concerns and offered the route through Oakland's as an alternative, this would take runners right after Highfield Lane and therefore not through the town until the bottom of Redwell Road. It was discussed that it was still difficult taking runners safely across the road at the bottom of Redwell but this was preferred and could be managed.

Sarah Eden brought in the route suggested by George McCreedy previously, through the hospital site and onto the A695 and straight down past Prudhoe Golf Club. NCC agreed that this would be a favoured solution if Gentoo were agreeable to open up the site to allow runners through.

It was AGREED to contact Gentoo to ask them to consider if this would be feasible as the first option and that this was a priority as the route would need to be measured.

It was AGREED that if the Prudhoe Hospital route was not permitted then the route would be through the Oakland's Estate, again this would need to be re-measured.

It was AGREED that it would be preferable to have the finish line near the amphitheatre at the Riverside Park as offered more space; the finishing area before the bridge was considered cramped.

Unfortunately, Gentoo later confirmed that for health and safety reasons they could not allow runners through the site as parts would still be a building site. It was with regret as they were supportive of the race and the PR opportunity it could have presented, but, the risks were too high.

Therefore the route through Oakland's Estate was AGREED and all parties were emailed on 22nd February to confirm this.

Cllr Andy Gill and NCC Officers left the meeting.

2. Report of Town Events Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13th November 2018

It was AGREED to receive the report as a true record.

Members discussed at length the issues raised at the November meeting and **Actions for improvement were AGREED** and are detailed in table format at Appendix 1.

3. Entries

Number of finishers in the 10k	234 (+77)
Number of entries in the Junior and Mini Race	159 (+81)

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It was AGREED that the number of junior entries were greatly increased as a result of Holly Kelleher going into to schools to promote the event. Members were very grateful to Holly (founder of Prudhoe Parkrun) for agreeing to do this at very short notice; the feedback from schools was very positive.

St. Matthews' RC Primary were the deserved winners of the most runners as a percentage of school numbers and praise was given to teacher Patricia Hatherley who had started an after-school running club as well as being there on the day of the race cheering on her pupils, and everyone else. St. Matthew's RC Primary has received £250 to spend on sports equipment and Chair Gerry Price went into the school to present the cheque.

The increase in overall numbers was also pleasing and whether the change from t-shirts to medals was a factor is not known. Cllrs reported that feedback from runners supported to move away from t-shirts and the medals were very well received.

4. Race Budget

Richard Hunter had previously advised that the race costs incurred by Run Nation were almost £3,300; this figure was amended slightly at the meeting. Cllr Eileen Burt questioned why there was an issue with available personnel on the day of the race when there are costs of £350 for 5 members of staff.

Cllr Russ Greig questioned that some of the costs itemised were overall business running costs and could not be wholly attributed to the Miners Race.

Richard Hunter advised that race costs have been kept down on this race in particular, whereas other races in the calendar have gone up in price. Additionally, the company is now VAT registered and there is a cost to process all online payments. Richard Hunter assured that they were trying to keep the costs of the race down.

Cllr Russ Greig disputed the VAT element as VAT received is off-set against VAT due. Cllr Russ Greig asked if gross profit could be provided. Richard Hunter advised that each race was not broken down in that way but the income from the race (including VAT) was £5,029.

Richard Hunter explained that the new website cost £8,000 and there were lots of things undertaken by Run Nation that made the event run more smoothly, adding that the risk is with Run Nation, i.e. in the formative years there was no profit in the race.

It was AGREED that the Town Council should liaise with Amy Maughan about the potential for increased sponsorship as the £1,000 donated did not cover the Town Council's costs.

Sarah Eden reminded members that there were also prizes donated in addition to Amy's time and PR efforts.

Miners Race medals	bacs 240	£1,750.00
Coach Hire for Miners Race	105852	£80.00
John Robson PA Miners Race	bacs 256	£125.00
Water for Miners Race	bacs 239	£136.90
NCC - Traffic Management for Miners Race	bacs 261	£1,152.00
School Incentive for Miners Race 2017	bacs 283	£250.00

Total £3,493.90

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5. Essity Prudhoe Miners Race 2018

The following immediate priorities were agreed:

- The date of the race is **Sunday 23rd September 2018**
- Marshals required for the race, although Sarah Eden commented that it was unlikely to get someone to 100% commit to something so far in advance.
- Contact Prudhoe Junior Parkrun organisers in view that this race is now held on a Sunday morning, on the same route at the Riverside. ***(Seamus Kelleher has kindly agreed that Prudhoe Junior Parkrun will not be held that weekend and members will be encouraged to enter the Miners Race)***
- Contact Community Groups to help on the day.
- Offer the opportunity of providing refreshments to a Community Group.

It was AGREED that runners will not receive water in plastic bottles this year, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, paper cups will be used.

It was AGREED that the legalities of who owns the race need to be investigated and clarified, prior to 2019.

6. Highfield Fest Family Fun Day

Sarah Eden reported that there was interest from another Scooter Company to attend Highfield Fest and provide competitions, demonstrations and prizes. Sarah Eden recommended that the Council should seek 'expressions of interest' in view that those who attended last year may also be interested. **This was AGREED.**

An 'Expressions of Interest' request was publicised and sent directly to Override, Island Extreme, Simon Downie and Steve Dixon. Override responded that they were unable to attend, Island Extreme responded with a letter detailing what they would bring to the event at a cost of £1,000. No other parties responded.

Island Extreme is therefore the lead organiser for the Scooter element at Highfield Fest 2018.

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APPENDIX 1

No marshal briefing beforehand	Richard Hunter agreed to delegate the chief marshal role to another. Cllr Gerry Price agreed to take on the role. The briefing must include responsibilities as well as instructions and must begin no later than 9:00 am
Road closed too early before the race	Legal document states 9:50 am so that should be the time adhered to.
Generator not fenced off Guide ropes a tripping hazard Too few crowd control barriers	The Risk Assessment carried out by Run Nation should include spectators also. Move finish to amphitheatre so there will be more room.
End of race set-up very disorganised	End of race set-up must be complete for 10:00 am. Richard Hunter will ensure a checklist for staff to follow.
Last runner passed by tail vehicle	Tail vehicle will go the last marshalling point and to notify of the last runner.
Prize Giving is generally late and means runners are hanging around or leave before prize-giving	Prize-giving to take place at 11:00 am.
Male and Female 2 nd and 3 rd Prizes not given by PTC	Trophies were ordered and delivered for 2017 and will be included again in 2018. Seek sponsorship from Prudhoe Youth Charity Shop in the first instance.
Prize categories are too wide and the result is that 13 year olds are competing with 16 year olds	Change the categories so although young people are in the same race, the positions and prizes are according to less wide ranging age categories.