

TOWN EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE: GAZEBOS

Report of meeting held on 19 January 2016 at the Spetchells Centre, at 6.00 pm

**Present**

PTC: Cllrs Mrs J McGee (Chair), G McCreedy, Mrs N McGee, A Gill, Mrs C Cuthbert; R Whinney (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the meeting had been called in order to consider the policy to be followed in respect of the three gazebos owned by the Council, and make a recommendation to the Ordinary Meeting as to the approach to be taken going forward.

In respect of the gazebos, the following was noted:

- With the agreement of the West Northumberland Youth Service, the gazebos are currently stored at the East Centre. No charge is made for this, and there was no suggestion that there was any difficulty with the East continuing to store the gazebos on the Council's behalf;
- The gazebos are heavy, and need at least three, though advisedly four, people to safely erect them;
- While it had been suggested that they could be used at the Prudhoe Market, a suggestion reported to have come from the Markets Marshal, Ms Joanna Jackson, it was agreed that the East Centre staff were not being asked or expected to deliver them to the market, It was therefore accepted that unless those wishing to borrow the gazebos were able to collect and return them, and ensure their safe erection, they were unlikely to be borrowed for the market. The clerk expressed concern with regard to their safe use unless those responsible were physically strong, erected the gazebos properly, and ensured that they were stable and secure. It was also noted that there was nothing to stop traders obtaining lighter gazebos for themselves and erecting these.

**Recommendation**

After further discussion **it was unanimously AGREED**, proposed Cllr Mrs J McGee, seconded Mrs N McGee, to recommend to the Ordinary Meeting as follows:

- (1) That the Council make no charge for the hire of the gazebos;
- (2) That, subject to the agreement of the West Northumberland Youth Service, the gazebos continued to be stored at the East Centre;
- (3) That the principal use of the gazebos would be at events organised by the Town Council or at which it was a participant;
- (4) That the Council should be prepared to loan the gazebos to third parties on a free-of-charge basis, subject to a disclaimer in respect of erection and dismantling otherwise than as advised and making proper use of the anchoring equipment provided. The borrower would also have to collect the gazebos from storage and return them afterwards.

**Availability of volunteers**

Cllr Mrs J McGee noted that as the councillors as volunteers were getting older, it was difficult to see how issues such as erecting the gazebos could be dealt with going forward. She suggested that the Council might look at the idea of paying for this kind of help. She stated that it was important to ensure that no-one was injured, and she suggested that this issue be thought about for 2017-18.