

**Minutes of the Warkworth Show Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday 19th January 2021 Held on Zoom at 7:30pm**

Present: Ann Burke (chairman), John Park, Sally Black, Margaret Douglas, Catherine Dowlen, Brennig Davis, Carole and Ian Moyes

Apologies from: James Cox and Graeme Popay

Minutes of the meeting from 17th November 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

- **Children's Champion** – There are two nominations Rio Groves, a teaching assistant who is heavily involved in the scouting movement. Sarah Price, a teacher who has a lifelong involvement with the Show and ran the Story Tent and runs The Puffin Drama Group. All felt that both candidates would be an asset to championing children's activities and involvement in the Show.
- Brennig proposed that Sarah would be invited onto the Exec as the Children's Champion and Rio also invited to be on a Children's Task Group. Sally seconded the proposal.
- Ann will speak to Sarah and Rio.
- **Show 2021** – Sally has spoken to John Hobrough, Chair of Governors, regarding the offer of using the primary school as a venue for the Show. We would need to speak to the Headteacher, Laura Ritson, in more detail to agree on using the facilities and health and safety / insurance etc. but it was decided that it was too early to do that. Brennig said that if we are able to hold a smaller Show, the school grounds and building would be easier to manage social distancing factors and it would also be easier and less costly to cancel.
- Brennig has spoken to Olympic Marquees about the possibility of hiring smaller tents or marquees and the company had looked at the school site plan with regard to suitability and site access. There would need to be discussion on the date of a deposit and whether or not the deposit would be fully or partly refundable if the Show had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.
- Ann has spoken to the County Council for advice on when large events might begin to take place, but they were unable to give any. The Northumberland County Show has been cancelled at the end of May. It is not known if the May local elections will be delayed until later in the year too.
- After discussion it was agreed by all that a full show should not take place in the castle grounds in 2021. Warkworth residents who had been asked did not think it was safe to attend a large gathering. **The 150th Celebration Show should take place when a full show can be held, hopefully in 2022! Therefore, the Exec agreed to hold Warkworth Show 2021, which will be a Virtual Show at least.** If it is safe to do so, a smaller actual Show could be organised at a later date. Margaret said that normally expenditure for booking tents/marquees and insurance was not paid until March or April.
- Brennig suggested that last year's Virtual Show had been a success and that was a good advert to hold it again. The format worked well in most areas, but we can improve on it. Brennig also suggested that if it is not suitable for visitors to attend an actual event for Covid reasons, it may be possible for exhibitors to display their exhibits in a central place (tent, school building or village hall) and for the exhibits to be photographed to be viewed on the Show website. People entering the site could

do so on a prebooked timed slot to keep numbers to a minimum. Judging could also take place in a central place, but there would be no actual visitors.

- **Treasurers Report** - Margaret reported that there has been very little movement this financial year and future expenditure will depend on what decisions are taken with regard to the 2021 Show. The report was circulated to the committee. Ann and Catherine will need to be made new signatories for the bank account and then Margaret will arrange to transfer to online banking.
- Margaret brought up the previous discussion on entry fees and prize money. The question on whether to continue to pay cash prizes for all category winners or whether there should be fewer bigger prizes instead. It is difficult to take out large sums of cash from the bank and very time consuming to prepare and hand out prize money at the end of the Show. Ann said that she felt that many exhibitors spent a large sum of money on ingredients or floral art for example and the prize money helped to supplement these costs. Would children prefer to receive a rosette which they could keep instead of a small cash prize?
- **This item, entry fees and cash prizes to go on the agenda at the next committee meeting.**
- **Industrial Report** – Minutes of the 30th November Industrial Committee meeting were circulated before this meeting. Sally said that the committee agreed that the 150th Warkworth Show should be a special event and that it would be good to wait until a full Show can go ahead. An exhibition of the history of the Show will be planned. Sally had spoken to a couple of judges about the possibility of holding a demonstration/talk. The idea was met with approval but at a date when the event can be held in person rather than online.
- **Horticultural Committee Report** – James circulated the report before the meeting. The committee has been looking at the roles of the committee, entry fees and pruning horti entry classes in the schedule. Most items are pending until a decision has been made about this year's show. The other items will be discussed at the next Exec meeting when James is present.
- **Events Committee Report** – Brennig said that there had been no need for a meeting as no events planned! The equipment which is stored with John needs to be checked over as it was not done last year. To be checked in the next few weeks.
- **Entertainment Committee** - Graeme has provisionally booked Mezze Mundo.
- **Carole and Ian will post an item on the Show website and social media that the Warkworth Show 2021 will go ahead in some format!**
- **AOB**
- Rachel Parks has had to retire from the Committee. The Committee send their best wishes to Rachel and thank her for her hard work and huge commitment to the show over a number of years.

Date of next Committee Meeting Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 7:30pm