



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on Friday 31st May 2024 at the Town House, Station Approach, Saxmundham at 11:30 am.

Minutes

19/24EC

Attendees

Cllr Benjamin Gulliford
Cllr Di Eastman
Cllr Geraldine Barker

Also Present

Sharon Smith (Town Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Hawkins
Cllr James Sandbach

20/24EC

Declaration of Interests

None.

21/24EC

Open Forum

None.

22/24EC

Summer Arts Festival 2024

The Committee noted that the Community Officer had invited the High Street businesses to participate in the Arts Festival by allowing them free stallage space in the street market outside their premises. It was further noted that the Liberal Democrats campaign office had been included in this invitation.

The Committee considered whether to withdraw the invitation to the campaign office or whether to invite all political parties to participate in the Arts Festival, giving due consideration to the pre-election guidance provided by the Town Clerk and the note from the Art Station that the Arts Fest was considered to be a non-political event.

The Committee noted that political parties do not require permission, nor a licence, to campaign at any time therefore it would not be possible to prevent their presence at the Arts Fest.

Following a discussion, it was **unanimously resolved** that if the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate intended to offer only creative arts entertainment from her campaign office, then the other political parties would not be invited. Conversely, if the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate intended to campaign at the Arts Fest, then an invitation would be extended to all political parties, and they would be grouped together at the crossroads end of the High Street.

Action: Town Clerk to contact Liberal Democrats campaign office to ascertain intentions.

The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.

Sharon Smith
Town Clerk

Signed _____ Date _____