

**Agenda Item:** 7. TOWN CRIER  
**Report to:** Community Committee  
**Date:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
**Subject:** To consider event plan for Town Crier auditions

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**Recommendation:**  
**To approve the event plan for the Town Crier and delegate the final organisation to the town clerk.**

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## **I. Background**

The Community Committee researched the role of a town crier and recommended that the town council appoint a person to this role at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021:

00267 a) iii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Town Crier policy and for the Community Committee to organise an audition process and appoint a Town Crier. An amendment to the policy was made 'the maximum expenses that will be refunded in any one financial year in addition to cleaning is £300'

The role was advertised online in November and December and a release sent to the local press in January.

There has been one application for the role, and interest from others in taking part in a public audition event.

## **2. Audition Event**

The town council recognises the need for an interview process and is exploring ways that this could be a fun, free event for residents to take part in.

The audition could be an outdoor event, to test the voices of the applicants, with councillors forming a judging panel to make the final decision. In order to draw attention to the event the council could support the Royal British Legion band by inviting them to play some jolly tunes to attract the public to take part.

The event could take place in April to allow the successful candidate to be in place ready for the civic awards ceremony in May and to ensure budget funds are available from the Events budget in 2022-23.

Possible event plan:

- a) Hold the event around a bandstand, hosted by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in their robes.
- b) A PA system to be used for use by the hosts.
- c) The judges are seated to the side of the Band Stand at a trestle table covered in red cloth.
- d) There could be two 'pop up' marketing signs nearby advising the public of the event and what time it starts.
- e) The RBL band play for a short time in the lead up to the event start time to draw attention to the area.
- f) Councillors gather and invite members of the public to join the 'audience' whilst the band are playing. There is an informal area spaced out in front of the Band Stand.
- g) The band finish and the Mace Bearer announces the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the stage.
- h) The Mayor introduces the event and the 'rules'.
- i) The Deputy Mayor adds a poem or short speech to the festivities.
- j) Each candidate performs their act, as introduced by the Mayor and Deputy and is scored by the judges.
- k) The judges each hold up 'Strictly Come Dancing' style score boards to clearly show the public their score at the end of each act.
- l) The scores are totalled after each performance and updated on a large pre-made board on the Band Stand in real time, for the audience to see.
- m) The Mayor announces the winner, the candidates are presented with a badge or such like, to honour their participation.
- n) The band plays out.

### 3. Costs

The following is estimated:

PA system – speaker, amp, two radio mics	Hire locally approx. £150
Trestle table and judges chairs and red table cloth	Borrow from local hall
Two pop up marketing signs	Print locally £150
Flip chart stand and scoring cards	Print board without names locally so can use again. Print names and make score cards in house. Approx. £100
RBL Band	Donation £250

Total costs £650.00 (excluding officer time to prepare)

Could possibly use Bexhill Radio as PA?

#### **4. Publicity**

- a) Event to be marketed online, in local press and to local groups via email.
- b) Posters can be printed in house if needed to be given to local businesses at a minimum cost.
- c) Invite BBC TV and radio to cover event.
- d) Invite Observer to cover event.

#### **5. Insurance**

- a) A full risk assessment would need to be completed and submitted to the council's insurance company to cover for public liability.

#### **6. Impact on local crime and disorder**

- a) Local police could be invited to take part in event
- b) Event manager personnel allocated to observe spectators and liaise with police in event of an issue.

#### **7. Decisions Required**

- a) To agree format and event plan of town crier audition.
- b) To allocate £1000 (including contingency fund) from the events budget 2022/23 for the project.
- c) To agree possible dates and times of event.
- d) Delegate to the town clerk to arrange in conjunction with Community Committee members.
- e) If the event is agreed the full project plan to be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 for approval.