

support through promotion, sponsorship and knowledge of local entertainment groups. This is a large 3 day event for our town and will attract thousands of visitors. Members congratulated the Town Development Manager on securing this event for the town.

The Town Development Manager suggested that the Charity Dragon Boat Festival does not go ahead in 2018 and that a break would be good as interest for the event this year is low with the tragedy in 2015 putting teams off from entering. Cllr Bober expressed concern about losing this popular event for a year. Members agreed to look at the decision about the 2018 event after this year's race has taken place.

6. St Neots Armed Forces Day Gala

Members congratulated the Civic Officer and her team for what was one of the best events the town had seen in a long while. Cllr Bober added that at the civic reception Jonathan Djanogly MP commented that this was one of the nicest events he had been to.

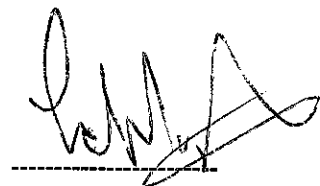
The event is organised in partnership with St Neots Armed Forces Day Committee comprising of members of local military associations. Over 6,000 visitors attended from far and wide with social media coverage receiving over 21,000 interactions from the public. The organising committee are meeting next week to confirm the date for the gala in 2018 which is also the anniversary year of the end of WWI. Members requested that the Civic Officer extend and invite to our twin town to join in with next year's event.

7. Replacement Town Crier

The Civic Officer informed members that Mike Blackburn, St Neots Town Crier for the last 18 years had recently retired from the role. The council will seek a replacement during the course of the summer with final auditions for the role being carried out on the town's Market Square. It was proposed by Cllr Usher and seconded by Cllr Bober that a formal thank you and presentation be given to Mike Blackburn for his 18 years of service to the town.

RESOLVED: unanimously to accept the proposal

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.04pm



CHAIRMAN