

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN CENTRE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2004 AT 7 PM**

<u>PRESENT</u>	Councillors	H. Cadd Mrs. P. Desorgher D. Isham H. Mordue Mrs. H. Saul Mrs. P. Stevens P. Strain-Clark R. Stuchbury	(Chairman) (Mayor)
	Town Clerk	Ms. P. J. Heath	

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

508 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. D. Isham declared a prejudicial interest on item 12 on the agenda – Craft Fair. There were no other declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

509 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2004 and ratified on 16th February were agreed by Members.

510 TO RECEIVE ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES

510.1 (498.4) Buckingham Charters

The Clerk informed Members that a full sized photograph of the Charter, 2 parchments, would cost £265. Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that the photographs should be purchased from account code 4263 (Charters) plus the balance from 4227 (Advertising). It was agreed to ascertain if the photograph could be reproduced as an image that could be used by the Council on postcards.

ACTION THE CLERK

510.2 (503) Christmas Market

Switch-on is on 28th November, which is also the date of the Craft Fair. Buckingham Business Club is looking to hold the Christmas Market in and around the Community Centre on the same day. Details would be given to the Council later in the year.

510.3 (507.1) Skate park

Verbal conversations with Insp. Wootton indicate there is not a major drug dealing or abuse problem at the Skate Park; this will be monitored.

511 ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUCKINGHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Chairman reported on the regular meetings he and Cllr. Collins had attended with Buckingham Acoustics. The Music Festival will be held on 30th May. Arrangements are proceeding with the Acoustic Club sorting all the acts, staging, lighting, PA, and advertising. It was agreed to liaise with AVDC of the provision of the toilets should the work on Moreton Road not be completed. The Mayor and the Town Crier would be formally invited by the Chairman. Cllr. Stevens reported that the shops in Cornwall's Place were intending holding a street party on that day which could be tied into the Music Festival; Cllr. Stevens will provide details as they become known.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN /CLLR. STEVENS

512 REPORT ON THE MEETING HELD WITH MESSRS NICHOLS BROTHERS

The Chairman and the Mayor reported on the positive meeting held with John and Marshal Nichols. The rent agreement has been signed for 2005 – 2007.

In respect of the accident - they have agreed to put in procedures for all operators in respect of the laying of cables to prevent a similar accident happening again. The Members discussed the future policy of the Council in respect of accidents during the weekends of the fairs; it was agreed that this Council could only pass on the relevant information to the parties and broker any meeting. The Charter Fair is organised and run by the Nichols brothers on behalf of the Council so that any contact must be directed through them.

513 QUOTATION AND IDEAS - BLACHERE WONDERLAND - CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members looked at the suggested scheme ideas for Buckingham and discussed the quotation received, which would be above the budgeted amount. It was **AGREED** that a sub-group of Cllrs. Mordue, Desorgher, Cadd, Isham and the Chairman would meet following the interim meeting to look at the proposals and formulate a policy for the Council's lights. Preliminary thoughts being that they should all be white lights and not have any across the street. Blachere would be invited to make a presentation to the Council and to representatives from the businesses in the Town with a view to seek further sponsorship.

ACTION THE CLERK

514 SUMMARY OF CHRISTMAS PARADE SURVEY

Members were informed that Cllr. Lehmann had, with the Chairman's agreement, drawn up a survey form and delivered it to the town centre shops and business; only 7 returned forms had been received. Members discussed the results and felt that the Parade should remain at its traditional Saturday morning slot.

The 2004 parade theme will be "Films".

515 DEBRIEF ON BUCKINGHAM PANCAKE RACE

Members discussed the Pancake Race which had been held on 24th February. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Stevens for their assistance on the day, also the Town Clerk, the Clerical Assistant and the Caretaker for their hard work.

Communication between the start of the race and the turning point had been difficult, it was **AGREED** to ask AVDC if the Council could borrow radios for next year. The lack of barriers at suitable points had not caused a problem but could have left the Council open to a negligence claim had a child been injured by a vehicle entering the race area. It was **AGREED** to hire a van to transport the barriers next year. A letter of thanks was requested to be sent to the Police.

ACTION THE CLERK

516 REPORTS ON BUCKINGHAM STREET, FLEA, AND FARMERS MARKETS

516.1 Illegal Parked Cars

Cllr. Stevens reported on the ongoing problem of vehicles being parked in the market area, which the police are currently refusing to move. Cllr. Stevens has complained to Inspector Wootton without much success. This has apparently been passed to the Town Sergeant for investigation claiming this was not highway land once the order came into force on the Tuesday or Saturday. Cllr Stevens was advised to contact the Area Commander Mike Doyle.

516.2 Accident in the Market

Cllr. Stevens and the Clerk reported on a letter received from Wing Commander Hudson who had tripped on the electric cable and fallen. The cable which supplies the market is covered with a rubber sleeve as per health and safety requirements. Mr Hudson claimed that the footpath was busy and he had caught his foot on the edge of the wire where it comes out of the control box. The Clerk informed members that a red and white strip would be placed on the electrical cover to increase its visibility also a yellow "A" board would be purchased indicating the wire; this would be located at the end by the control box covering the exit point. It was agreed that Mr Hudson's letter and the Clerk's report would be sent to the Insurance Company.

ACTION THE CLERK

517 THE USE AND PROCEDURE FOR AGREEMENT OF MARKET STALL SETTING UP AND RUNNING ON NON MARKET DAYS

Members had raised concerns about traders from the market trading on days other than market days. Cllr. Stevens confirmed she had given permission for the flower stall to sell on Fridays leading up to St Valentines Day and prior to Christmas. Members discussed the principle at length. It was **AGREED** that no stall may trade on days other than the designated market days. Any request for additional trading days – such as at Christmas - must be agreed by the Committee prior to the event. Cllr. Stevens will inform the Market Toby.

ACTION CLLR STEVENS

518 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON THE CRAFT FAIR

The Chairman reported that the Craft Market had been very successful with all 22 tables let.

519 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

519.1 Weekend in the Park

The Clerk and the Chairman reported on the meeting held with AVDC and interested groups; it had been an interesting meeting with 35 group representatives. From the information and ideas raised at that meeting a rough draft plan for the weekend in the park had been agreed. There will be another meeting on 25th March 2004 at 7.30 for 8 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre.

- Thursday Old Gaolers show/ bat walk/environment events
- Friday Golden Activities/ bowling/tennis over 60/ Old Gaolers
- Saturday Sports for all/tasters for sports later in the day or holidays/
Buckingham Acoustics
- Sunday Lazy Day/bouncy castle/Great Horwood Band/cream teas/beer
tent/craft fare/charity stalls

Members suggested "Tug of War", "Greasy Pole" and the "Stocks" for the Sunday. A suggested name for the event was "Buckingham Country Fayre"

519.2 Twinning Association

The Buckingham Twinning Association would be holding a quiz night on 26th March and a wine tasting on 14th March; all Councillors were invited to attend.

519.3 Hearing Dog Friendly Town

Members were informed this had been passed over from the Environment Committee, feeling that an award for hearing dog friendly town should be under the TC&E Committee criteria. Members discussed this but felt that the Council could not enter the town as no survey or information was available as to whether the town was any less friendly to "hearing dogs" than "guide dogs".

519.4 Flag

Members were concerned that despite a new flag being given to the Old Gaol museum it was still not being flown. Cllr. Mordue would try to ascertain why.

ACTION CLLR MORDUE

CHAIRMAN DATE