

73/2005 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman reported that he had replied to all the letters received on this matter. He had also negotiated the connection of the pealights in the Cattle Pen trees for £250.

The previous contractor had indicated early in 2004 that he did not wish to carry on, and this was why the Clerk had sought quotations from other contractors. A proportion of this year's budget had been spent on infrastructure, and this would not need to be repeated; should the same budget be confirmed at the Precept meeting, there would thus be money available to expand the lighting scheme for 2005.

Members discussed the old lights in storage and decided that they should be checked for function and safety by a qualified electrician, and a stock list of the usable items prepared.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN

The traders of the town would be invited to a meeting in the Community Centre during March to discuss the 2005 lighting scheme; by this time the list of usable old lights would be available and traders could be offered the use of these to put up and connect to their own power supply if they so wished. The budget for 2005 would also be known and contributions could be requested for augmenting the coverage. Traders would be contacted via the Traders Association and Business Club, and via the *Buckingham Advertiser*.

ACTION THE CLERK

Members noted that there had been problems with the lights – not all had worked for the full period – and agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should consider a reduction in payment to the contractor accordingly.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK

Cllr. Saul arrived.

Members also noted that the large tree outside the Gaol had appeared to be leaning over, although this was partly due to it being bent in the main stem. The tree might not be provided free by AVDC next year and the Committee agreed to allow £800 in the budget to cover the cost should this be so. The situation should be resolved before Precept.

[Clerk's note: the meeting with traders will be held in the Small Hall of the Community Centre on Wednesday 23rd March 2005 at 8 o'clock]

74/2005 CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Chairman reported that the Police were concerned that not enough marshals had been appointed, and that their officers had had to move the barriers closing the roads. There had also been some confusion over the installation of the warning road signs.

Members had also been circulated with the 1997 and 1998 minutes relevant to the Town Council's involvement with the Parade.

It was felt that the Parade Committee, including a Town Council representative, should organise the Parade, marshalling and signs. The Town Council should have an enabling/funding role only, similar to that for the Music Festival, and a letter would be sent after the Precept meeting indicating that the Council was providing a grant of the agreed amount to fund the Parade, and also that the Mayor, whoever this might be in December, would be happy to attend as representative of the funding body. A debrief meeting with the Police should be set up to discuss any problems with the Committee; Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, the current Town Council representative, undertook to convey the Council's views to the Committee.

The Mayor noted that one float at the 2004 Parade had displayed material he considered political in nature and not representative of the Council's views, and had asked for it to be removed. Members differed in opinion about whether this was a valid action.

75/2005 HANGING BASKETS

Members had been circulated with a complete list of tender prices for the baskets and a list of those traders who had responded so far to the letter sent out. Costs to buy or lease a watering barrow were also supplied.

The costs of Mr. East's time + hire/buy + an estimate for the water used would need to be calculated, and also where the device would be kept considered.

Buckingham Nurseries were chosen to supply the baskets.

Additional participation in the scheme (necessitating the provision of additional brackets by the Town Council, to be charged to the applicant) would be offered to businesses in the Town Centre via the *Buckingham Advertiser*.

76/2005 SAVE 2005

Another battery collection would not be possible. Childline had contacted the Council with details of the mobile phone recycling scheme; other charities have similar schemes. Recycling printer and toner cartridges was also suggested; the Clerk would research the possibilities.

ACTION THE CLERK

77/2005 MARKETS

77.1 Street Market

Cllr. Stevens reported that this was satisfactory although experiencing a seasonal low.

77.2 Flea Market

The market was popular, with many stallholders, and a lot of people walking through. Unfortunately they weren't spending much, but this might also be seasonal.

77.3 Farmers' Market

As the market was so soon after the Christmas/New Year holiday period, the traders had decided not to attend in January. The market on February 1st would be the next one.

77.4 French Market

The original contact had not responded but a different operator had offered details. Members decided to contact the second company and obtain further information.

77.5 (571) Trading on non-market days

The Chairman reported the flower trader had set up a stall on Thursday December 23rd (the regular traders attended on Friday 24th in lieu of the Saturday). The toby had spoken to the trader, warning him that another occurrence would terminate his attendance in Buckingham and charging him double the usual rate.

77.6 Future applications for trading on non-market days

Members decided that for various reasons, including traffic and insurance, no individual trading would be permitted on non-market days.

78/2005 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

A new system of Road Closure Orders has been introduced; orders will cost £1100 per event, and a block booking will no longer be possible.

Members’ opinion was that this would kill many events; a meeting had been arranged to discuss the matter with AVDC, BCC and the Police on Friday January 21st 2005 at 10am in the Chamber. The Chairman hoped to be able to attend, but would arrange for another Councillor to stand in if this was not possible.

79/2005 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE/VJ DAY

Members decided a Town Council event was inappropriate but would contact the British Legion to see if they were organising anything. A sum of £100 from the contingencies fund was suggested as a reasonable contribution if required.

80/2005 DATES FOR 2005 EVENTS

Members agreed the following:

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| Spring Music Festival | Sunday 29 th May |
| Buckingham in Bloom entries | closing date 30 th June |
| Big Bash | 25 th -31 st July (to be confirmed) |
| River Rinse | either 11 th or 18 th September, whichever did not clash with the Heritage Open Days (Sundays) |
| Bonfire & Fireworks | Saturday November 5 th |
| Christmas Lights | Sunday 27 th November at 5pm |
| Christmas Parade/Community Fair | Saturday 10 th December (to be checked with the Parade Committee) |

81/2005 CHAIRMAN’S ITEMS

Buckinghamshire Times

The January 2005 edition of the Buckinghamshire Times had advertised a directory “the handy guide to what going on in Bucks and the universe” covering activities for children living in High Wycombe, Aylesbury Chesham and Burnham and distributed free via schools in these areas.

Members wondered why the north of the County had been omitted and asked the Clerk to write and enquire.

ACTION THE CLERK

Meeting closed at 8.28pm

CHAIRMAN DATE
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