

85/2005 (72.2) "WELCOME TO BUCKINGHAM" SIGNS

Alternative quotes had been obtained from two sign manufacturers; Members decided that the contract should go to BCC but they would prefer the design offered by one of the other manufacturers which gave greater prominence to the word BUCKINGHAM. Members also felt the free parking should be emphasised and the motifs on the sign could group the Museum and Tourist Information logos to the left of the wording leaving space for the blue P for parking with the word FREE underneath to the right of the wording. BCC would be asked to re-quote on this design.

The signs would principally be funded from 4228 (£1500) and various other remainder amounts; the University would also be asked to contribute. The Chairman would contact the press and publicise the signs.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN/THE CLERK

86/2005 (73) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

86.1 Existing lights in storage

One quotation had been received for the survey of the stored lights. Members decided to wait for other quotes sought to arrive before making a decision.

86.2 2005 display

The cost of the special brackets would not need to be considered this year and this sum could be put to extending the lights to the White House side of Market Square. The position of the bracket by WH Smith would need to be adjusted to even up the catenaries. Members also discussed the High Street pealights and decided that they should be left on at least until obscured by the leaf growth to make the Cattle Pens a more attractive area.

86.3 Meeting with traders

The meeting is set for 23rd March 2005 in the Community Centre. The *Advertiser* has been invited to attend.

87/2005 BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM AND RELATED COMPETITIONS

87.1 Buckingham in Bloom

The prizes would be as for the 2004 competition; the Chairman undertook to provide photographs for the Business award as last year. The Clerk would write to the *Buckingham Advertiser* to invite them to take part and nominate a judge, and to the schools before Easter to advise them of the competition. The appropriate forms etc. would be generated by the office in due course.

ACTION THE CLERK

87.2 Best Kept Village 2005

Members decided to enter this competition (entry fee £8) in the appropriate category.

87.3 Britain in Bloom 2005

Members decided not to enter this competition (entry fee £100) this year.

88/2005 HANGING BASKETS

88.1 Watering system

Members agreed to lease the watering system for a year as a trial, with Mr. East doing the watering. A place to house the device and a water source would need to be identified.

88.2 Sites for two additional brackets

Members discussed possible sites for a bracket surplus to the original installation and the bracket from 23 High Street, which is too close to the house wall, and suggested the lamp-posts on Bridge Street each side of the London Road Bridge. These are back from the road edge and the display would enhance the entrance to the town centre from the south. The Clerk would write to BCC with this suggestion for their permission.

ACTION THE CLERK

88.3 Additional requests for baskets

No additional requests had been received, despite publicity in the *Advertiser*. The offer would be repeated at the Christmas Lights meeting with traders on March 23rd.

89/2005 SAVE MONTH 2005

The events were agreed as follows:-

Month-long collection of mobile phones and printer cartridges, to be sent to charities for re-cycling.

May 8th Pedal in the Park

May 22nd Botanical Walk

Members assumed that AVDC Countryside Services would be running an Open Day at the Sandpit as usual. Cllr. Loftus was suggested as an appropriate Councillor for the cycle ride; the Road Safety Officer at BCC and Buckingham Bikes would be approached for any support they could give. Cllr. Newell would get in touch with Mrs. Robinson with a view to finding a different lecturer for the Botanical Walk: the University had been suggested as a source.

ACTION CLLRS. LOFTUS AND NEWELL/THE CLERK

90/2005 ROAD CLOSURE ORDER SYSTEM

The Chairman reported on a meeting which had taken place on 21st January 2005 with representatives of the Town, District and County Councils and the Police.

Road Closure Orders would now be administered by BCC at £1100 per order and requiring 3 months notice; the cost of signage, and the installation of signs as per the maps supplied would be in addition to this. If the signs are not put out as instructed, the event could be cancelled. Requests for Orders would be considered in light of blockage to traffic flow and whether an alternative venue for the event was available.

Several events could be covered by one Order, but the Order would specify the precise event, date(s) and time of each. Additional events could not be added; they would incur the full cost of another order. Other organisation's events – such as Remembrance Day – could be included with the Town Council's order if requested.

The events to be covered would include

- the Pancake Race (although not on the traditional course);

- the Music Festival (the Order would prevent car parking)
- the Charter Fairs
- the Christmas Parade
- the Christmas Lights (to prevent parking)

Other events suggested were Remembrance Day (British Legion to be contacted; they may obtain a county-wide Order); the Good Friday procession (a request had been received from Buckingham Churches for this); Mayor's Sunday.

Members felt that the Pancake Race could be moved to the Cattle Pen area of the High Street without loss of atmosphere. This would be safer, particularly for the children, and even if Shrove Tuesday coincided with the day of the Farmers' Market the Market had packed away by lunchtime and the race was generally held in the afternoon.

The Police had been unhappy with the way the Fair had encroached on the roadway at the Old Gaol junction, and that unrestricted crossing of the road at this point presented dangers. The Fair would be asked to keep the stalls off the road and barriers would be erected to restrict crossing to between the Kings Head and the Tudor Rock. Members were not in favour of closing the road between Moreton Road toilets and Cornwall's Meadow altogether as this would cause Addington Road to be used as a bypass.

Members agreed that the British Legion and the Rev. Ashby should be invited to a meeting to discuss the procedures involved.

ACTION THE CLERK

91/2005 2005 WEEKEND IN THE PARK

Cllr. P. Strain-Clark had provided a written summary of progress to date.

A preliminary meeting had taken place on 10th February, and an Open Meeting arranged for 9th March in the Community Centre to which societies, sports clubs and other interested parties would be invited. A new and larger committee would be formed to work on all aspects of this year's event. The budget had been set as in 2004: AVDC £5000 and BTC £2500.

Members discussed the budget amounts and agreed that if AVDC's amount was reduced to parity with the Town Council contribution, then the Town Council should receive equal billing in the advertising.

92/2005 MARKETS

92.1 Street Market

The number of stalls was down, but this was partly due to stallholders retiring. Nationally, street markets were not doing well.

92.2 Flea Market

The number of stalls was subject to seasonal variation and the weather on the day; it would pick up after Easter.

92.3 Farmers' Market

The number of stalls attending was consistent but low because of the type of farming in the area.

92.4 (77.4) French Market

Cllrs. Lehmann and Stevens would be meeting Bruno of Brunomarts on 22nd February 2005 to discuss the possibility of mounting a French Market, preferably on a non-Farmers' Market Tuesday in the Old Cattle Pens. This would complement the Street Market and not clash with the Flea Market.

92.5 Carrier Bags

Quotations had been obtained from three manufacturers of printed carrier bags; the selected quote was from Coventry Carrier Bags at £176.40 per 1000 for 1000 ordered reducing to £64.80 per 1000 for 5000 ordered, plus £30 per side artwork. The company would store the bulk of the bags against call-off (48hours delivery). The costs would be taken from the £435 balance left in 4208; a few bags would be distributed to the retailers and market stallholders and then further supplies could be ordered from the Council at a charge to be determined.

ACTION THE CLERK

93/2005 MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Mayor would liaise with the Acoustic Club and report to the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY

Members agreed that if the event grew larger, sponsorship could be sought to cover costs.

94/2005 YOUTH CINEMA PROJECT

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that Mr. Gadd, the Community Plan Project Manager, was moving the Cinema Project forward as one of the aims of the project; the participants had agreed on the one site, at the University, where the room proposed was not required on Wednesday afternoons. A film suitable for children could be shown in the afternoon and one for adults in the evening. It was proposed to launch the Youth Cinema on April 2nd, even if the University was not ready to start the film club for adults. The supervising group would select appropriate films.

In the absence of a designated body, Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the £750 awarded from the Youth Fund be paid to a ringfenced area in the Community Plan accounts for disbursement on Youth Cinema items only by Mr. Gadd.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **AGREED** that the £750 voted from the Youth Fund for the Youth Cinema Project be made available for disbursement by Mr. Gadd under the above conditions.

ACTION THE CLERK

95/2005 COMMITTEE BUDGET REVIEW

The Committee decided a review of the budget was not necessary.

96/2005 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

96.1 Twinning Association Boules Contest

Members discussed Town Council involvement in the contest; last year AVDC had provided (and cleared away) sand for the Cattle Pens and the Lions had provided insurance cover. There had been no problems. It was considered that the event could be run in a similar way to the Christmas Parade, by delegation.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council oversee the Boules Tournament, delegating the organisation to the Twinning Association.

96.2 Fireworks Account

Cllr. Stevens had that day received the statement of the monies remaining in this account, £760.34. This was the result of the method of distribution of the charity collection having changed and the balance accumulating over some years.

Members agreed that the amount should be added to the collection made at the last Fireworks event and distributed to the charities as per the formula agreed (TC&E Minute 470). Cllr. Mordue would be contacted to this effect.

ACTION THE CLERK

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

CHAIRMAN DATE