

placed along the kerb edge, and the market traders would be informed that they were not to be moved.

99.3 (96.1) Twinning Association Boules Contest

Cllr. Strain-Clark reported that the Twinning Association would organise the event, and would keep the Town Clerk informed.

A question had been raised re selling wine at the event, and Licensing had pointed out that drinking in public places was not permitted in Buckingham. The Chairman had investigated via Mr. Bercow and the byelaw could be waived for events. Members discussed whether local licensees could provide wine under their existing licence, and whether offering free wine and appealing for donations to the Twinning Association could circumvent the law.

The Clerk would contact Licensing for clarification of the law in this matter.

ACTION THE CLERK

100/2005 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

100.1 (86) Meeting with traders held on 23rd March 2005

Notes of the meeting had been circulated with the agenda; Mr. Walton had also circulated a list of concerns at the public session preceding this meeting.

The Chairman reported that the meeting had been at times rancorous but that the following points had been noted

1. Traders were concerned that the Council-funded display had been restricted to the centre of town, and there was no provision for Well Street, Bridge Street, Castle Street and Well Street.
2. Traders preferred the small trees, and were interested in using such of the Council's old lights as were functioning.
3. The display was disappointing for the money expended.

Members felt that with the limited budget available it was sensible to light the centre of town to create a festive atmosphere for residents and visiting shoppers. Lights could be extended to other shopping areas as funds permitted. It was noted that some traders had made considerable efforts to dress their windows while others had not.

Members decided to offer traders the use of such lights as remained viable and the name of a tree supplier, installation and power supply to be at the trader's expense. Letters would be delivered to individual premises in Bridge Street, Well Street, Castle Street, West Street and the stretch of Market Hill from the Bull Ring to West Street.

It was also suggested that provision of lights for the outer parts of the town centre be a Community Project with a budget separate from the Committee's Christmas Lights budget.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and RECOMMENDED that this Council allocate £500 to a fund to help traders install Christmas lights in the streets around the town centre, unspent monies to be carried forward from year to year.

100.2 2005 Lights display

The Town Clerk had arranged a meeting with the contractors for 10.00 on Tuesday April 12th: the Chairman was unable to attend, and Cllr. Isham volunteered in his stead.

Members asked that the contractor's attention be drawn to the malfunction of some of the lights and the delay in removing them in January. Members had already decided to extend the scheme to the side of Market Square between the White House and the White Hart so far as the budget permitted.

Standing Orders were suspended (Prop.Cllr.Stevens, 2nd Cllr. Cadd) to enable the Chairman to respond to a point made by Mr. Walton in his notes on the costs of the lights and storage charges, if the lights were leased.

102.3 High Street Pealights

Members noted that these had not yet been reconnected as requested.

102.4 Christmas Tree

AVDC were not yet able to confirm whether they would be funding the Christmas tree again. They go out to tender for Christmas Lights in July.

101/2005 (85)“WELCOME TO BUCKINGHAM” SIGNS

The Chairman described the response from GOSE on the proposed signs which was:

- “Free Parking” amounts to advertising and would not be authorised
- the tourist symbols should be white on a brown panel
- one phrase of local historical or geographical interest is permitted, not two; so either “historic market town” or “home of the University of Buckingham” should be omitted
- all of the words except for the town name should be in lower case

The omitted information could be presented on a separate sign to be placed further along the road.

Members pointed out that some other towns had very large signs with much information listed – tourist sights, directions to car parking and multiple twin towns – and a single sign was less clutter than two.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Stevens and **AGREED** that a letter be sent to GOSE asking for justification of their policy.

ACTION THE CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the matter be referred to the next meeting following the receipt of a response, whichever Committee that happened to be, to expedite the installation of the signs.

102/2005 HANGING BASKETS

102.1 (88.1) Watering device

No suitable site had been found to house the water bowser, although as a last resort it would fit in the lobby of the office, where there was also an electricity point for recharging the battery.

Members suggested contacting The Kings Head, Woolworths and Budgens to see if they had anywhere suitable.

ACTION THE CLERK

102.2 (88.2) New sites

The County Council’s agents, Jacobs Babtie, had contacted the office for details of the weight of the baskets and the proposed fixing height. The previous contractors had supplied this information direct to the County Council when the High Street brackets had been installed and Jacobs Babtie were advised that the brackets and baskets were identical. No further communication had yet been received.

103/2005 SAVE MONTH

103.1 Cycle Ride

Cllr. Loftus was happy to supervise the cycle ride.

103.2 Botanical Walk

Cllr. Newell was finalising details of the Walk and would contact the office in the near future.

104/2005 MARKETS

104.1 Street Market

Cllr. Stevens reported that the market was struggling although a new trader had started the previous Saturday. He would be treated as a casual for a short while, then asked for monthly rental as a regular.

104.2 Flower trader

Several Councillors had been contacted about a new flower trader selling from a stall in Meadow Walk on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays apparently with the permission of the landowners. Complaints had been made by the permanent businesses and market traders. It was felt that, as he was trading from private land, a licence may not be necessary; the Licensing Officer had been contacted but was on leave.

Members expressed concern at the consequent narrowing of a pinch point, especially when the café tables were in use, making the passage of electric vehicles and pushchairs difficult. A fear was also voiced that the landlord may permit further stalls. Health and Safety and Trading Standards should be contacted.

ACTION THE CLERK

104.3 Flea Market

Activity was starting to pick up as the weather improved.

104.4 Farmers' Market

A chart of attendance and type of stalls for April 2004 – March 2005 was circulated at the meeting. Members noted the number of traders had increased and the majority attended most months.

104.5 French Market

The Chairman reported on the meeting held with the organisers. The market would be held over the weekend of November 26th/27th 2005 in the High Street Cattle Pens area, and the organiser would pay for associated publicity including a hamper for the local paper to give away and for the additional refuse collection necessary.

The Flea market would be moved on the Saturday, but at the end of November there were few traders and the supervisor had agreed. A Craft Market had already been organised for the Sunday, and the Christmas Lighting ceremony and Carols Round the Tree was also set for that day.

Members discussed whether the organiser should pay a fee for mounting the Market, or possibly make a donation to charity, eg. the Hospital. It was agreed, the Mayor dissenting, that for this first year no fee or contribution should be demanded, but to consider it for future occasions.

Proposed by Cllr. Stevens, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the date of 26th/27th November and the offered payment for refuse collection and promotion be accepted.

ACTION THE CLERK

104.6 Carrier Bags

The Chairman reported that it had been intended to purchase new bags, but it appeared that was sufficient stock for the time being.

He had been approached by the *Buckingham Advertiser* Group with a view to sponsoring the bags, but there had been no follow-up.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN.

105/2005 "BIG BASH" 2005

Cllr. Strain-Clark reported that it had been hoped to expand the event this year, but there had been a very poor turnout at the initial meeting and consequently the programme would be much the same as last year – sports, theatre, music and craft market. Action was being taken to encourage better attendance at the next planning meeting.

106/2005 SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Cllr. Strain-Clark reported that Buckingham Acoustic Club had organised a variety of bands and sorted out the technical side. Mouvaux would not be contributing, but CEROC would be giving a display, and there would be face-painting and similar amusements. PSL had offered to do refreshments. The Bakery would open for the sale of pasties and other snacks, as they did last year, and the Whale had also offered backup power facilities in case of problems.

107/2005 YOUTH CINEMA PROJECT

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that this first presentation had gone well: 30-40 children had attended, about 60 people in all, and they had seemed to enjoy the film chosen (*Garfield – the Movie*). There were enough helpers both front of house and in the lecture theatre, and BBC South had featured the event and interviewed Mr. Gadd. There will shortly be a de-brief meeting, and the next showing was intended to be at the May half-term.

It is hoped to have the full cinema project running later in the summer, with several showings each week, one especially for older people possibly mid-week and the rest at the weekend. The Town Council funding would continue to pay for the children's films.

108/2005 CHARTER FAIR MEETING

The pre-fair meeting with the Nichols brothers and the Police (including the Community Police Officer) would be attended by Cllr. Isham, and Cllr Stuchbury if work permitted, on a date to be arranged. It would be necessary to find a safe solution to crossing the Moreton Road by the Old Gaol during fair time.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

109/2005 MEETING WITH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Town Clerk had met Mr. Armstrong of the local branch, who was grateful for the Town Council's initiative over the new Traffic Order system which he had not been aware of. The Legion would not have been able to fund the necessary £1100 for an individual order, and the County organisation had made no move on a comprehensive order. The Legion would liase with the Town Clerk over signs and associated requirements and organise marshalling.

The branch were considering a church service at the War Memorial to commemorate VE day, with refreshments afterwards in the church. The Legion branch was meeting to discuss this on 7th April, and might ask the Council to fund the refreshments (see Minute 79).

110/2005 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE TIMES

Cllr. Stuchbury had noted a competition in the recent edition of *Buckinghamshire Times* which could be entered only by collecting a card at venues in the south of the County; he had contacted the staff at County Hall and pointed out the discrimination, noting that the Buckingham Library could have been included as a convenient site in the north. Also there was little for this end of the county in the *Buckinghamshire Times* as a rule.

As a result the Town Council had been asked to provide information on forthcoming events in Buckingham. Members suggested the Music Festival, and the Heritage Open Days. Mr. Credland would be contacted about supplying a picture to accompany the Festival item.

ACTION THE CLERK

111/2005 BUDGET REVIEW

Members felt this was unnecessary so early in the year.

112/2005 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

There were no Chairman's items.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CHAIRMAN DATE