

134.4 (117.6) Buckinghamshire Times article

An article had been submitted with details of the Town Council events during the rest of 2005, and the Heritage Open Days.

134.5 (119) SE Market Towns Award

Mr. Mark Gadd had submitted an entry on behalf of the Community Plan Group for the Cinema Project.

134.6 (130) Youth Cinema

The next showing was being planned.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and AGREED that item 12 on the agenda be taken next.

135 BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

135.1 Event, November 5th 2005

Cllr. Saul regretted that, owing to pressure of work, she was unable to organise this event. Cllr. Mordue would continue with the organisation of the 2005 event, shadowed by another Councillor who could take over for 2006. The Mayor volunteered for this for 2006 and it was hoped that in 2007 one of the new Councillors would take over the running of the event.

Cllr. Mordue reported that the display would be by Pa-Boom as in previous years; Moretonville Football Club would provide parking supervision; the cadets would build the bonfire and set up and marshal the barriers; the Round Table would sell items, and litterpick on the Sunday.

Members discussed the problem of offers of bonfire wood which needed collection. It was decided to contact the Round Table to see if they could organise collection, and if so, to advertise this (with especial reference to Leylandii trimmings).

ACTION THE CLERK

135.2 Fireworks Account (Full Council Minute 2599.4)

Members had been asked to suggest suitable charities to receive the balance in this account.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **RECOMMENDED** that the balance in the Fireworks account be split 50:50 between PSL and the Buckingham Youth Carers Association, and that in 2005 the collection be for the Mayor's Charity.

Cllr. Lehmann arrived.

135.3 Support for Arts in the Town

Cllr. Mordue also suggested, for discussion by the Committee on a future occasion, that as Buckingham was gaining a reputation for its musical events, permanent underwriting support for the Summer Festival etc. should be considered.

SEPTEMBER AGENDA

Cllr. Mordue left the meeting.

136 (117.3) BOULES CONTEST

The occasion seemed to have been well attended and no problems had been reported. Members discussed the sale and consumption of alcohol at outdoor events and the response from AVDC Licensing which indicated that they do not have the power to set the 'consumption of alcohol in public places' byelaw aside for functions/events, nor to enforce it – this is up to the Police. Members queried an apparent conflict with a letter received from the ODPM.

A licence would need to be applied for for the sale of alcohol.

A copy of the byelaw would be obtained.

ACTION THE CLERK

137 (117.7) BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM

137.1 Residents' Competition

Cllr. Newell reported that the judging was in hand – appointments had been made with the schools for 19th July followed by the residential classes. Mr. Pendred of the *Advertiser* was unable to attend but would be kept advised. The certificates would be given out at the Forum as usual.

137.2 Business Competition

Cllr. Lehmann had circulated his fellow judges with photographs of the business displays; they were asked to rate the entries and return their scores to the Clerk. He said that on the whole the displays were very poor, except for the pubs and the Town Council hanging baskets.

137.3 (99.2) Best Kept Village

The Clerk announced to Members that Buckingham had once again won the Michaelis Cup. Publicity would be arranged for the presentation of the cup.

138 (122) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members had been circulated with a breakdown of the quotations for the Town Centre plus Bridge Street and Castle Street.

The Chairman proposed the drawing up of a five-year plan of progressive expansion according to an agreed annual budget. The present contract had Christmas 2005 and 2006 to run; a new contract would be prepared for tender in 2006.

Cllr. Cadd arrived.

The various options were discussed including leaving stalactite lights up all year round, except on the Old Gaol, and decided on stalactite lights on the buildings from Verney Close to the White Hart at a quoted cost of £5505.30 including installation and removal; storage to be agreed (acct. code 4201). Members expressed concern at the sums involved for a few weeks of display.

Traders would be contacted via a hand-delivered letter and advised of the Council's plans. Arrangements would be made for reconnection of the High Street pea-lights, to be paid for from this budget code.

The stored lights would be tested for viability and any not usable would be disposed of.

The remainder could then be offered to the traders.

139 CHRISTMAS TREE

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AVDC had written asking if the Town Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the provision of a Christmas tree, hitherto sourced, installed, decorated and removed free of charge. They estimated the cost to be in the region of £1000.

The Clerk had been asked to find out the amount AVDC had available to spend on festive decorations; this was £29,000 for the whole District.

Members felt that this should be spent pro rata calculated on population; the Clerk should calculate what amount Buckingham was due by reason of its population, and if less than £1000, Members would offer a contribution to the difference.

A letter would be sent to Mr. Betts according to the result of the calculation, pointing out that the Town Council had budgeted £11,800 for Christmas decorations this year from its own funds and as the shopping centre for the north of the county ought to receive some contribution from the District Council towards its seasonal décor.

ACTION THE CLERK

[Clerk's note: based on population figures from the AVDC website, the District's population is 165,748; the total for the two Buckingham wards is 11,962 (2002 figures). Thus the pro rata portion of £29,000 is £2092.92]

140 MARKETS

140.1 (118.1) Market Meeting held on 12th July 2005

Notes of the meeting had been circulated to Members. A letter would be sent to the landlord of the Whale recommending that he check where overnight visitors had parked on Mondays and Fridays and warn them they can be towed away by the Police if in the market area. There was space available on both the Tuesday and Saturday markets and an advertisement would be placed in the *Market Trader* to seek additional traders – a butcher stall was the most noticeable lack at present.

140.2 Street Market

The following were noted and would be communicated to the supervisor:

- Not all of the traders were displaying contact details on the stall
- One trader was calling wares despite warnings that this was not allowed
- The barrier was not always in use to prevent traffic trying to pass through the market.

140.3 Flea Market

No problems were reported. The ticket system was working well and in general only 5 places were available for casual use.

140.4 Farmers' Market

15 traders had attended at the July market.

140.5 French Market

No further information was available at present. Both the market supervisors would be kept informed and had expressed an interest in attending on the Sunday.

141 (123) CHARTER FAIR

The Chairman was unable to attend the meeting on 10th August; Cllr. Isham volunteered to attend. The Town Clerk would prepare a briefing note covering the changes due to the new Road Closure Order system and other items.

A new draft contract would also be prepared for the meeting, with the aim of having the agreed version available for the 5th September Events meeting and eventual signing during October.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

142 (124) CIVIC LUNCH, TWINNING VISIT

The Chairman reported that the Community Centre had been booked and the caterers chosen; Cllr. Mordue was investigating sponsorship for the provision of the wine. The lunch would be a buffet, from 11.30 – 2.30 on November 6th; the early finish was to allow adequate time for farewells and thanks before the visitors had to leave.

The Twinning Association had been asked to supply numbers by late September; by then other costs would be known. Current estimate was that it would cost about £10/head.

An invitation would be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Bercow and the SE Area European Office to invite a representative MEP; Mr. and Mrs. Scrase would also be invited, with a reminder that Mr. Scrase had not yet invoiced the Council for the previous Civic lunch at the Old Town Hall.

ACTION THE CLERK

143 (126) HANGING BASKETS

143.1 2006 Scheme

The Chairman apologised to Cllr. Cadd for omitting to call him to help with installing the baskets in spite of his having offered.

Tenders would be sought for 2006 to provide, install, water daily, and remove the hanging baskets. The Buckingham Horticultural Society, the Allotment Association and local nurseries would be included on the tender list.

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting

143.2 Holiday cover for Mr East (to water the baskets)

Mr. East wished to be on holiday from 7th - 14th August and from 13th - 17th September; the baskets and planters needed to be watered daily.

The Horticultural Society, the Allotment Association and both Bowls Clubs would be approached to see if any member could cover these periods, for a donation to funds. The Mayor offered to be fallback candidate.

Mr. East would be thanked for his considerable efforts in doing the watering this summer.

ACTION THE CLERK

144 (127) SAVE MONTH 2005

144.1 'Pedal in the Park'

The response had been poor, and a change of event was discussed for 2006. It was decided to approach Bourton Meadow School for the use of the playground for a Road Safety/Cycling Proficiency event.

144.2 Botanical Walk

Mrs. Robinson and Jason West would be contacted for their co-operation in suggesting an alternative to the Railway/Scenic Walk as a venue, and to co-ordinate Wildlife events into the SAVE month programme.

144.3 Recycling

As ever, the people of Buckingham had responded generously to the recycling initiative and a large number of printer cartridges and mobile phones had been posted or sent by courier to the selected charities.

The Environment Agency had recently withdrawn the need to apply for a licence for the collection of batteries (provided this was on a small scale and the batteries were disposed of at a licensed site) and a box had been provided in the lobby for this purpose.

144.4 Sandpit Open Day

This was a popular activity day, and would be repeated.

145 (117.1) RIVER RINSE

Members decided to clear the stretch of the river from the car park bridge to the substation bridge in Bourton Park this year. Stowe Sub-Aqua would be contacted to confirm the venue, and the skip organised. A memo would be sent to all Councillors, giving the details of place and time, and requesting volunteer help.

ACTION THE CLERK

Cllr. Isham reported information received at a meeting of the Drainage Board. The dredging of the river had been postponed because of the presence of heavy metals, notably mercury, in the silt. This could not be dumped on the banks, it had to be disposed of at an appropriate site, and the Environment Agency's contractor had had its licence revoked. An enquiry would be made of the Agency and a report made to the Town Council.

Cllr. Cadd noted that the river had been thoroughly dredged, and the spoil removed for this very reason, some 15-20 years ago, and that this had been said to be a one-time job. (The date could be checked as the banks at Chandos Park had been shored up at the same time).

146 (128) "BIG BASH" 2005

Cllr. P. Strain-Clark reported on the programme for the event as the leaflet was not entirely accurate, having gone to press before final details were available. The Towcester edition of the *Advertiser* had printed incorrect information - the Twinning Association events on the Sunday instead of Saturday - but the Buckingham edition had been correct. He regretted that there were fewer activities than last year and less public participation in the planning; he would be putting up posters around the town and distributing flyers to ensure maximum publicity. Councillors were required to be available for the Saturday until 6.00pm as keyholders for First Aid etc.: the rota was finalised at the meeting.

He expressed concern that there would be fewer customers at the Saturday Craft Fair than the Sunday one, and asked if Members would agree to a reduced table fee if so.

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Newell and **AGREED** that Cllr. Strain-Clark be permitted to reduce the table charge at his discretion.

Members discussed additional litter clearance and toilet cleaning for the event. The appropriate department at AVDC would be contacted to see what arrangements had already been made for the latter and additional cleaning agreed if deemed necessary.

ACTION TOWN CLERK/AVDC

147 BUDGET REVIEW

Members had been circulated with the budget sheet.

4228 – The Acoustic Club would be booked for Bonfire Night as usual. The Chairman and the Clerk would liaise to see if any entertainment could be arranged for the summer holidays – a Punch and Judy show was suggested.

The budget for the Welcome signs should be shown as a separate line.

ACTION ACCOUNTS CLERK

Members were asked to consider items for pre-Precept discussion at the next meeting.

148 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

148.1 Opening of Community Centre Toilets

There was no booking in the Community Centre on Saturday 23rd July 2005; the manager wished to know if the Council wanted the toilets to be open for public use. The matter was referred to this meeting as the only one available in the time.

Members agreed that payment would be made to have the toilets available on this Saturday as a public service.

148.2 Letter received from Rotary Club re Trafalgar Day

The Club had asked if the Town Council had any plans to celebrate Trafalgar Day on October 21st, and whether it had any views on decorating Nelson Street with bunting.

The Club would be advised that the Council had not planned any recognition of the anniversary, and to the best of the Council's knowledge Nelson Street was named for the banker who had owned property in the area, and not for the Admiral.

ACTION THE CLERK

148.3 Bowls Match, Chandos Park

An invitation had been sent to Chandos Park Bowls Club to arrange a match between the Club and the Council as a social occasion. No response had yet been received.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN DATE