

The Festival normally took place in the second week of July and the Big Bash in the last week, but use could be made of the marquee as a venue.

AVDC had advised the Festival to look elsewhere for funding as they could no longer guarantee to underwrite it; Mrs. Richardson would like to have reserves sufficient to book quality musicians with confidence early in the year.

Members pointed out that this Council was not in a position to underwrite the Festival; it would mean no other event could be funded for the Town. However, it was possible that the Aylesbury Vale Arts Council, though it could not offer funding, would underwrite against any loss incurred. The Committee had considered sponsoring an individual event – perhaps an evening of light classical music – and asked what this would involve. Mrs. Richardson said that a piano recital could be sponsored for £200-£300 and other events up to £4000 for a full orchestra, but that in general £1500-£2000 was a reasonable figure.

Cllr. Newell arrived.

Members felt that it would be useful to hold a meeting with the Town Council, Mr. Barham of AVDC (for the Big Bash) and the Festival organisers to discuss co-ordinating the events, and to consider further the sponsoring of an individual performance after the Precept meeting.

2005/191 BUCKINGHAM TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. M. Foster, a member of the Community Plan Economic Subcommittee and a trader in the town, felt that there needed to be better communication between the Town Council and the traders and other businesses for the general benefit of Buckingham. He suggested co-ordinating the Christmas Lights Switching-on with late opening of the shops – a Friday or Saturday would be better than a Sunday – and that with more warning, more shops could have opened on the Sunday of the French Market.

Cllr. Isham arrived.

Members discussed how better communication with the Traders' Association could be achieved; as a start Mr. Foster would be sent meeting agendas by email so that he could attend if he wished. The calendar of 2006 events to be discussed later (Min. 201) would be sent after ratification in January. Suggestions could be made to the councillor representatives on the Economics group for items to include on Events agendas for mutual benefit.

Mrs. Richardson and Mr. Foster left the meeting.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.*

2005/192 ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES

192.1 (172.1) Welcome to Buckingham signs

The County Council had suggested modifications to the siting of the signs proposed for the A413 London Road (60-80m closer to the town) and A421 Bletchley Road (relocation of the Stowe Landscape Gardens sign) due to the new signs being larger than the existing. Members agreed the suggestions.

192.2 (179) Bull Ring bollards

Members had asked Mr. East to check the condition of the wooden bollards when they were replaced after the Charter Fair. Mr East reported that they were in good condition and required no work; he had greased the seating on replacement to aid removal next year.

2005/193 (164) ROAD CLOSURE BARRIERS

Members had been circulated with details of various sorts of barriers and agreed that the orange lockable plastic barriers hired for the Christmas Parade had been suitable, light enough in weight for ease of placement and small enough to be readily transportable on the quad bike trailer. Two would be needed for each site. Members agreed that as many barriers should be bought as possible with the budget allocated, hiring in more as necessary, and funds set aside each year for new and replacement barriers and cones until sufficient were acquired. It would then be prudent to set aside some monies each year to replace barriers as they reached the end of their useful life. Barriers could be made available to other organisations against a deposit to cover loss or damage. Cllr. Mordue pointed out that such barriers could also be used to fence off damaged play equipment or maintenance or horticultural work carried out by Mr. East.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council purchase sufficient barriers for its own requirements.

2005/194 (163) PLANTERS AND HANGING BASKETS

Costs for the Bull Ring planters for summer 2006, and winter 2006-7 were circulated at the meeting. One supplier had also quoted for planters suitable for the island in front of the White Hart. Sample prices were also listed for hanging baskets; further quotations would be sought from the Horticultural Society, and the appropriate traders and businesses approached to find if they were willing to contribute at the same rate as last year (£35/basket).

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL/THE COMMITTEE CLERK

Members considered that buying a watering bowser would be the most economic solution, and one could be obtained that would fit on the trailer, which would speed up the watering process. Cllr. Cadd suggested one could be made by a local firm and offered to find out who to write to to enquire about this.

ACTION CLLR. CADD/THE COMMITTEE CLERK

2005/195 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Members had before them a breakdown of the budget and discussed the various sections and commitments, deciding as in the pages appended.

The following recommendations were made:

(4107: Pride of Place)

AGREED

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the total be increased by more than 4% to allow for paid advertisements for the competition.

(1001: Street and Flea Markets)

AGREED

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **RECOMMENDED** that the estimated income under 1001 be reduced to £25,000 to suit the decrease in market trade.

2005/196 (154) TOWN MAP

Members approved the proof copy of the town map, asking that Badgers Estate be named as Page Hill, Linden Village and Mount Pleasant were. The Clerk had also noted an error on the publishers' part which would be pointed out to them, and Mr. Credland's email address would be corrected.

ACTION THE COMMITTEE CLERK

2005/197 (166) RISK ASSESSMENTS

As these are a legal requirement, Members felt that the Proper Officer of the Council should carry out the Risk Assessments, which would then be signed off by the Chairman, as was said to be the practice in other councils.

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council, and the Chairman should carry out the Risk Assessments necessary, and that the Chairman should sign them off when completed.

2005/198 MARKETS

In Cllr. Stevens' absence, the Committee Clerk gave a brief report on the Markets.

198.1 Street Market

The Tuesday Market had several new traders, but the Saturday Market still had space available. The Market Supervisor had recommended advertising in a magazine handed out free to traders at several markets in the area. Costs would be investigated.

198.2 Flea Market

The usual seasonal reduction in number of traders was noted.

198.3 Farmers' Market

There had been 14 stalls at the December Farmers' Market. The soft fruit and plant vendors had not come and would not now probably attend until May 2006, depending on the weather.

198.4 French Market

The Market had proved popular and well-attended, and many positive comments had been received.

The Clerk asked Members if they wished an advertisement placed in the *Buckingham Advertiser* to advise that the Street Market on Tuesday 27th December (a Bank Holiday) would not take place, and that the Farmers' Market on Tuesday January 3rd would take place, at the request of the respective traders. Members **AGREED**; £200 unused funds to be vired from 4210 (Pancake Race) to 4227 to cover the cost.

2005/199 PROMOTION OF THE MARKETS – BUDGET

Members discussed the promotion of the markets and agreed that a sum should be made available for advertising.

AGREED

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark, and ~~RECOMMENDED~~ that £1000 of market income be allocated for promotion of the markets.

2005/200 (183) SAVE 2006

The following events were proposed after consultation with Mr West of the Buckingham Wildlife Project:

Sandpit Open Day (family activities) 1st May 11am – 2pm

Nature Walk (Mrs. Robinson to choose theme and venue) date to be agreed

Holloway Spinney Task Day 20th May 12 noon - 4pm

Pushchairs in the Park date to be agreed

Road Safety event (Bourton Meadow School to be approached as venue) date to be agreed

Month-long collection at the office – spectacles for forwarding for third-world use

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL/THE COMMITTEE CLERK

2005/201 DATES FOR 2006 EVENTS

The following dates were agreed:

Spring Music Festival Sunday 28th May

Enquiry would be made about the possibility of holding another French Market the same day.

SAVE month as above

Buckingham in Bloom start date – advertising, forms available, from April

Last date for entries June 30th

Judging first week in July

Big Bash to be discussed with AVDC and Summer Festival

River Rinse 17th September

Charter Fairs 14th & 21st October

Bonfire & Fireworks 4th November

Christmas Tree/Lights Carols Saturday 25th November

Christmas Parade/Community Fair 9th December

Members also suggested another French Market in November, date to be discussed with the Traders' Association, and an event for May Day – Buckingham Primary School to be contacted re maypole dancing. North End Square was suggested as an alternative venue as there was insufficient space in the Cattle Pens or Bull Ring.

An appropriate date for another performance by the members of Bandjam would also be arranged.

2005/202 REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS

201.1 Bonfire & Fireworks

The event had gone very well despite the damp weather.

201.2 Civic Lunch

The lunch had been a success, although it should be noted for future occasions that the amount of soft drink & wine provided had been underestimated.

201.3 Remembrance Day

Cllr. Cadd took no part in the discussion, as a member of the Royal British Legion.

Initially the Council had included Remembrance Day in its own Road Closure Order out of concern for the local British Legion branch's finances; this had been superseded at a late date by the Legion's County organisation, leaving it responsible for installing and marshalling the barriers for the parade. The Town Clerk had so advised the local branch, but offered the use of barriers hired in for the Bonfire Event to save the Legion having to organise their own at short notice. The Town Council could not provide marshals as Councillors would be taking part in the Parade.

In the event, the Legion failed to put barriers out, resulting in emergency action by the Town Clerk and the Police in order that the Parade could take place.

Members discussed whether the Parade should revert to a Civic Occasion with the British Legion invited to take part; Members recognised the increasing years and decreasing membership of the British Legion and would not wish to see the Act of Remembrance discontinued for lack of support. The Chairman and Secretary of the Buckingham branch of the British Legion would be invited to the February meeting to discuss the way forward.

That no wreath was laid on behalf of the District Council was deplored.

Members also discussed the order of wreath-laying and whether the first wreath should be laid by the Mayor. The Clerk would check the protocol for such events.

ACTION THE CLERK

201.4 French Market

This had been very successful and should be booked again.

201.5 Christmas Lights, Tree and Carol Service

Very many more people had attended than in previous years. Members felt that it was only necessary to light the tree at the ceremony; the other lights could be programmed to come on beforehand at the agreed regular time, to save the timers having to be re-programmed after the event.

201.6 Christmas Parade and Community Fair

Parking had been a problem for stallholders at the fair; AVDC would be approached to see if any provision could be made to reserve spaces for them.

Members pointed out that market vehicles often occupied more than one bay, and that the bays were in any case very difficult to make out.

It was suggested that the Football Clubs be approached, requesting use of their parking areas for public use on Parade day.

Members also asked that the Parking Services Officer and Portfolio holder be asked for action in the matter of car park maintenance, given the sum contributed by the Town Council. The repair of kerbing and bay marking were a priority.

ACTION THE CLERK

2005/203 PUBLIC MEETING, HEALTH CONCERNS

The Chairman felt that the Town Council should act as facilitator to call a public meeting with representatives of the various Health and Care Services to discuss the progressive decrease in provision for the area noticeable over the past months. The services for young

persons with mental health problems were a particular concern as the Red Cross Day Centre was inappropriate for their care.

Members felt that it would be difficult to measure any decline, and the various authorities could claim that services were being provided albeit not in the town or vicinity, but that a comprehensive forum would be useful rather than dealing with each service provider separately.

Proposed by Cllr. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council organise a public meeting, inviting the representatives of the various entities involved in public health and social care provision to discuss the overall decline in services.

2005/204 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The University had applied for a licence for a marquee in their grounds on the occasion of the Graduation Ball. Members were asked for their opinion, as the response date was 23rd December and there was no other meeting of the Council before then.

Members agreed – no objection.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

CHAIRMAN DATE