

ED/04/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economic Development Working Group** of Buckingham Town Council held on Thursday 11th February 2021 held online via Zoom at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. R Newell	
Cllr. M. Smith	Chair
Cllr. R Stuchbury	
J. Watson	Dandy Lions Boutique
D. Jones	University of Buckingham
M. Simons	Traders Association
P. Hodson	Town Clerk
L. Stubbs	Communications Clerk
P. Hodson	Town Clerk
E. Churchill	Town Centre Manager
N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
W. Whyte	Buckinghamshire Council

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session

1048/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Clare and Nigel Morrison (Buckingham Society).

1049/20 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

1050/20 Minutes of last meeting

Members approved the minutes of the [Economic Development Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020](#), received by Full Council on the 23rd November 2020.

1051/20 Action List

Noted.

1052/20 Covid 19

The Town Clerk reported that the Tourist Information Centre and Shopmobility service remained closed but it was business as usual with green spaces and the cemetery.

1053/20 #AllWrappedUp Update

The Town Centre Manager reported that the campaign ran until the third national

lockdown was announced. The selfie banner was ready for display and the bunting will be collected once shops reopen. The social media advent calendar had attracted positive engagement and traders commented on sales having been influenced by the campaign. The raffle will have to be postponed until a more appropriate time.

1054/20 Town Centre Management

The Town Centre Manager reported on a recent meeting with the Town Centre Manager at Princess Risborough and the creation of a business questionnaire to be published this week. Members recorded their thanks to the Town Centre Manager.

1055/20 Supporting Businesses to bounce back

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council has set aside an ear-marked reserve of £10,000 for Bounce Back events during 2021, in addition to the usual events programme. The funding was created to enable the Council to help residents and businesses begin to return to normal (or establish the new normal) with some positive events and activities during 2021. At the meeting of the Town Centre and Events Committee held on Monday 8th February 2021, councillors agreed to implement the following set of proposed activities, with costs yet to be finalised:

- Fringe week
- Sculpture Trail of fibreglass otters
- Saturday entertainment in the town centre - one entertainment to be booked every week during the summer months
- Youth programme throughout the summer holidays
- Basketball sessions

The Town Clerk explained that local artistes will be approached to facilitate a programme of entertainment on Saturdays outside the Old Gaol throughout the Summer of 2021. Members discussed options for a wandering minstrel to attract shoppers to different areas of the town.

Members discussed the longevity of the fibreglass otter sculptures and Cllr. Stuchbury said it would be up to the TC&E Committee to decide on how they are used from 2022 onwards.

1056/20 Buxplore: end of year report

The Communications Clerk reported on the success of the app and noted that as of January 22nd 2021, 8 months after the launch of Buxplore, more than 2,500 unique users have accessed Buxplore.

Members discussed D. Jones's suggestion to link the app's Twitter feed from the Discover Buckingham website, and it was agreed that the Town Centre Manager investigate options.

ACTION TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

1057/20 Town Centre Design Working Group

The Town Clerk explained that during the first Covid 19 lockdown there was much discussion about the merits of pedestrianising part of the town centre. The only measure that it was felt to be safe and practical at the time was to introduce a temporary crossing at the foot of Moreton Road. However, conversations in a range of meetings and on social media about the pros and cons of pedestrianisation have

continued since then. The subject was raised during the Covid 19 and Economic Recovery sub-group of the Buckingham & Villages Community Board, held on 26th January 2021. It was agreed at that meeting to seek to establish a small working group to review the options, and to develop a scope of work for a suitable designer to propose options to change the town centre’s layout, including options for pedestrianisation. The Town Centre & Events Committee (TC&E) agreed for the Town Mayor, Chair and Vice-Chair of TC&E will act as the Town Council’s representatives on the Working Group.

1058/20 Buckingham & Villages Community Board Covid Support & Economic Recovery Group update

Cllr. Whyte appealed for prospective ideas to be brought forward to the group as there was potential investment available. D. Jones said that 18 months ago members from the group visited local market towns and noted assets and services of interest. Cllr Smith asked for the evaluation report to be recirculated to Members, including the Clerk of the Community Board. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Whyte suggested more benches for the town centre and parks. Cllr Smith suggested sending the Environment Committee’s list of potential bench locations to Cllr. Whyte for consideration by the Community Board.

1059/20 To receive and discuss a verbal update from Group members

1060/20 Chairman’s Announcements

Cllr. Smith announced this would be his last meeting as Chair of EDWG and Members recorded their thanks and best wishes.

1061/20 Date of next meeting

22nd July 2021

Meeting closed at:

Signed.....

Date.....