

**MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**FEBRUARY 2006 AT 7.00pm**

**PRESENT** Cllr. H. Cadd  
P. Collins (Mayor)  
Mrs. P. Desorgher  
D. R. Isham  
R. Lehmann  
R. Newell  
P. Strain-Clark  
R. Stuchbury (Chairman)

In attendance Cllr. H. Mordue

Also attending PC Trevor Cocks Thames Valley Police  
Mr S. Heywood Christmas Parade Committee  
Mr Peter Hayward Christmas Parade Committee  
Mr Colin Armstrong Chairman } Buckingham branch,  
Mr. Tom Howes Vice Chairman } Royal British Legion

For the Town Clerk Mrs. K. McElligott

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms. H. Saul and Mrs. P. Stevens.

**2006/205 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest at this point for items on the agenda

**2006/206 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members accepted the minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005, which were ratified at the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the guests to speak.*

**2006/207 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS AND EVENTS**

PC Cocks felt that, in general the closure for the Charter Fairs worked well, but that an additional Council representative was necessary so that each end of the town centre was covered, from 7.30am approximately until the Fair started to move in. Mr. East putting the cones out along the High Street and Town Centre worked well.

There would always be complaints from residents who claimed they were unaware of the Fair coming in, but notices were posted, there were signs on the edge of the town giving advance warning and every house received a letter from the Council.

Care needed to be taken when the Fair was laid out that no structure encroached on the road area round the Town Hall mini-roundabout; everything should be behind the white line to give vehicles room to go round rather than drive across the roundabout.

He also felt that sturdier barriers were needed by the Old Gaol – the individual barriers were easily knocked out of place.

*Cllr. Newell arrived.*

For Remembrance Day, the County organisation of the Royal British Legion would be applying for Road Closure; the order would only be valid if the correct signs and barriers were in place. Mr. Howes said that this had not been a problem in the past: barriers had been delivered and members had pre-positioned them ready for the Sunday. PC Cocks offered to meet branch representatives to discuss the matter; he also warned that Police presence was subject to operational demands on the day, so the branch had to be sure their organisation could manage without Police help.

Members discussed types of barriers suitable for Council needs, and whether these could be made available with signs to organisations such as the Royal British Legion.

PC Cocks also thought there were few problems with the Christmas Parade. The stewarding had worked well. Mr. Heywood said that he would prefer heavier barriers that were less easily moved, and for the Parade Committee to control the setting out of the cones. He was advised that the Parade would then be responsible for paying for any missing cones afterwards.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Cadd and AGREED to reinstate Standing Orders.*

Members agreed to discuss barriers at the next meeting.

### **2006/208 (201.3) REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Members had been circulated with a description of Remembrance Parade civic protocol and an example of order of wreath-laying from another council.

In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor should lay the first wreath, followed by Legion wreaths and wreaths for other Service organisations.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the guests to speak. Cllr. Cadd declared his membership of the Royal British Legion.*

It was pointed out that the Parade Marshal held a rehearsal and representatives of the Town Council could attend.

Contrary to the statement made at the last meeting, the local branch was not losing members and was able to continue running the Parade, inviting Civic leaders to attend. They were happy to follow wreath-laying protocol as described earlier.

Members offered Town Council organisation of barriers, signs and marshals, leaving the Parade itself to the British Legion. The Police needed to be clear where the responsibilities lay.

The matter would be discussed at the next Branch meeting.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and AGREED to reinstate Standing Orders. Mr. Howes and Mr. Armstrong left the meeting.*

**2006/209 (190) REPORT ON MEETING RE 'BIG BASH' AND BUCKINGHAM SUMMER FESTIVAL**

Cllr. Strain-Clark gave a brief resume of the history and content of the 'Big Bash' (formerly the Week in the Park) which normally took place at the end of July. This had the disadvantage that it was within the school holidays, and a suggestion had been made that the event be moved forward to form a continuous event with the Buckingham Summer Festival. A meeting had been held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February attended by Cllrs. P. Strain-Clark and Stuchbury, Mr. Ian Barham of AVDC Leisure and Mrs Catherine Richardson of Buckingham Summer Festival. Notes of this meeting were circulated to Members. The Summer Festival could not be moved to later in the month, as the Radcliffe Centre was not available after the University term started. Further organisation was required for the 'Big Bash' and a meeting was being arranged for interested parties in the Community Centre on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Strain-Clark was confident there was adequate time to organise the event if the date was brought forward as discussed. The Chairman was shadowing Cllr. Strain-Clark for the event, as the Mayor had last year, so that two Councillors were aware of the detail.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the date of the 2006 'Big Bash' event be brought forward to follow immediately after the Buckingham Summer Festival to form a two-week event from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July to the weekend of 22/23 July (as the programme dictated), with the finale of the Summer Festival scheduled for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The Spring Festival would be rather over a month before this event, and would provide a useful vehicle for publicity about it. It was also noted the World Cup Final was on 9<sup>th</sup> July and the Twinning Association Boules Contest on 14<sup>th</sup> July and suitable arrangements could be incorporated in the programme, and that the Silverstone Grand Prix was on 11<sup>th</sup> June, and therefore not a problem this year.

*Standing Orders were briefly suspended to enable Mr. Heywood to make some comments pertinent to planning any event.*

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

**2006/210 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A letter had been received by fax on 6<sup>th</sup> February complaining about the icicle lights installed in Market Square, particularly those affecting No.9. The Committee had decided to leave these in place (Minute 138) so as to save the cost of removal and re-installation, leaving more of the budget for extending the light provision. The contractor had installed the lights at first floor level, across the windows of flats in many cases, and had been contacted about this. No response had been received before the meeting. Members agreed that these lights would look better higher up the buildings.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that the lights be taken down and building owners be contacted again before next Christmas to confirm their permission for the lights to be installed at gutter level and left in situ.

#### **2006/211      SIGNAGE**

##### 211.1 (192.1) Welcome to Buckingham signs

Members agreed that costs be obtained for additional signs.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

##### 211.2 Direction signs within the town

The Chairman felt that signs within the town centre were inadequate. If funds were available, some thought should be given to installing signs to benefit visitors.

It was thought that BCC had proposed a policy of reducing signage in Conservation Areas. Their views would be sought and brought to the next meeting.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

##### 211.3 Sponsorship sign for the Cinema Project

Though the Town Council's sponsorship of the Cinema was credited before each film showing, it was felt that a sign to this effect should be installed beside that of AVDC. The Project organisers would be asked if they approved this.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

#### **2006/212      HANGING BASKETS AND PLANTERS**

##### 212.1 Hanging baskets

The Horticultural Society would be asked to provide quotes to compare with those offered by companies.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

##### 212.2 Planters

Members preferred to continue with the same supplier for the Bull Ring, but were informed that this firm had no planter small enough for the White Hart island.

A final decision would be made at the next meeting, as another company had quoted both for a smaller planter and for hanging baskets.

#### **2006/213      SAVE MONTH**

Cllr. Newell was designated to work with the Committee Clerk on finalising dates and events.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL/COMMITTEE CLERK**

#### **2006/214      MARKETS**

##### 214.1 Street Market

Cllr. Lehmann circulated figures showing that the market could be brought into profit if traders removed their own rubbish; £100/week was allowed for clearing of residual litter. Discussions with the market toby had revealed that traders removed their own refuse at many other markets.

It was pointed out that as the Town Council does not own the market area clearance may be a contractual obligation. Compliance by traders would also have to be policed.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** that this Council (1) put the suggestion to the market traders that they clear away their own refuse; (2) reduce the foot-rate charged to traders; (3) cancel the contract for market refuse collection.

A letter was proposed to all traders incorporating a tear-off reply strip indicating agreement; casual traders would be advised and required to sign before setting up.

Cllr. Stevens' views would be sought on her return.

The Clerk would supply the date of the contract renewal.

#### 214.2 Flea Market

In the absence of Cllr. Stevens, the Committee Clerk reported that the supervisor was satisfied with the number of stalls, given the season.

#### 214.3 Farmer's Market

In the absence of Cllr. Stevens, the Committee Clerk reported that 14 stalls were now attending regularly; this could be expected to rise after Easter when the plant stalls and soft fruit farmer returned.

#### 214.4 French Market

Brunomarts had agreed to attend to coincide with the Music Festival in May and the Christmas Lights in November on the same basis as last year (% of the Road Closure Order + cost of additional refuse collection).

#### 214.5 Market Entertainment

The Chairman would make contacts and enquiries and report to the next meeting.

### **2006/215 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CEREMONY, CAROLS ROUND THE TREE**

*Cllr. Stuchbury declared an interest as President of the Winslow Concert Band.*

Members were advised that Wolverton Town Band would be unable to attend if the ceremony was moved to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, as they had a previous commitment at Stony Stratford. Winslow Concert Band would be approached.

*Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr M. Foster of the Traders Association to speak from the floor.*

Mr Foster explained that the letter referred to in Min.210 had not come from him, nor had he been consulted. Traders he had spoken to had been positive and encouraging about the Christmas light display.

He would discuss late opening of the shops on the 25<sup>th</sup> November with the traders.

Members agreed to invite Mr. Foster to the next meeting.

*Mr. Foster left the meeting.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and AGREED to reinstate Standing Orders.*

Cllr. Isham proposed that a competition be held for domestic Christmas lights; he had noted many excellent displays in the town last year.

Members thanked Cllr. Isham for his enthusiasm for recognising the efforts of townspeople in this matter, but felt that a competition was inappropriate and might lead to vandalism.

**2006/216 FAIR TRADE TOWN**

Cllr. Newell reported that she was a member of the Fair Trade Group in the town, and that at least three shops in the town now sold Fair Trade goods, and if three cafés also did so, the town could be declared a Fair Trade Town.

Fair Trade Fortnight was from 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March and invitations would be issued to the Mayor and the Chairman of Events to attend a coffee morning.

Cllr. Newell asked if the Council's support of Fair Trade could be noted on the website.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that Cllr. Newell be designated the Town Council representative on the Fair Trade Group.

**2006/217 BEST KEPT TOWN COMPETITION**

Members agreed that the town should be entered in this year's competition.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**2006/218 TOWN CRIER, SUMMER COSTUME**

The Town Crier had written suggesting a competition to design a summer uniform, which she would pay for, as the existing coat was too warm for summer wear.

Members decided this matter should be referred to the full Council for discussion as being a civic matter.

**2006/219 COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTS**

Councillors will have responsibility for events as follows:-

Town in Bloom/Pride of Place	Business comp. Cllr. Lehmann Residents comp. Cllrs. Cadd, Desorgher & Newell
River Rinse	Cllr. Newell
Christmas Lights	The Mayor
Bonfire & Fireworks	Cllr. Mordue & the Chairman
Community Fair	Cllr. Lehmann
Charter Fair	Cllrs. Cadd, Isham & the Chairman
Christmas Parade	Cllr. Strain-Clark
'Big Bash'	Cllrs. Cadd, Strain-Clark & the Chairman
Spring Festival	Cllrs. Strain-Clark & the Chairman
Entertainments	The Chairman
Markets	Cllr. Stevens, if willing to carry on
Twinning	The Mayor

**2006/220 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

There were no Chairman's items.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....