

238.4 (233) Best Kept Village competition

Receipt of the competition entry had been acknowledged.

The town had also been entered for the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom Neighbourhood Award organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and funded by the ODPM. Entry was free of charge.

238.5 (234) 'Welcome to Buckingham signs'

A letter had been received that day from BCC and was circulated to the Committee at the meeting. The sites for the 4 additional signs were illustrated and listed with BCC's recommendations.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the County Council's recommendations be accepted.

238.6 (235) Sunday Trading

Members discussed the implications of extending the hours of trading permitted on a Sunday, both on shops and staff. Concern was also expressed at the light pollution caused by 24-hour opening, and in general at the extra power consumption when efforts should be encouraged to cut this.

Proposed by Cllr. Desorgher, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council write to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry advocating no increase in Sunday trading hours as this would be detrimental to the social and economic environment of market towns.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that item 14 be taken next, and that Standing Orders be suspended to enable Mr. Gadd to address the meeting.*

2006/239 (234) TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE

Mr. Gadd had provided a report which had been circulated with the agenda; he pointed out that this dealt with signage for pedestrians. An audit of signs for motorists had yet to be completed. The survey had been conducted from the point of view of a stranger to the town and thus a map-sign at the car park was necessary as well as directions to toilets, the shopping area, and main sights. Other existing signs, such as those for the Riverside Walk needed maintenance or replacement; it was felt the Partnership was the ideal forum for this discussion.

A decision on the Community Plan riverside walk project would be available in 6-7 weeks, and this would be a good opportunity to review the signage with a view to consistency of style. Cllr. Newell offered to consult with the Clerk on style possibilities and costs, and the Community Plan group would be kept informed.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL/THE CLERK

Mr. Gadd left the meeting.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders and agenda order be reinstated.*

2006/240 BUCKINGHAM FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT (“BIG BASH”)

The Chairman reported on the latest meeting, which had also been attended by Cllr. Mordue; progress was being made, and beside the Buckingham Acoustic Club and The Old Gaolers there were many organisations who had not participated previously. There would be a Family Fun Day on Sunday 23rd July; a rota of Councillors would need to be drawn up to provide a continuous presence through the day. A stiltwalker had been booked for 8th July to publicise the Fortnight in the town centre and market; fortuitously the Oxford Caledonian Pipes and Drums were holding a flag day in the town on the 8th and would be performing between 10.00 and 12.00. A brass ensemble would perform in the town centre on the middle Saturday (15th). There would also be a community event on the 15th on the Embleton Way playing field. The town logo would appear on the publicity material. It was agreed that the keys to the toilets would be given to the security staff who could then lock them at their discretion.

2006/241 SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

The press release provided by the Acoustic Club was circulated at the meeting. Councillors asked that the words ‘in association with’ (Buckingham Town Council) be replaced by ‘funded by’. The press release would be forwarded to the usual radio stations etc. by the Clerk.

A memo would be sent to Councillors seeking details of times they could be present. Three Red Cross First Aiders would be present to cover the event. The Road Closure Order, barriers, binbags etc were all organised.

ACTION THE CLERK

2006/242 BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM

Members took copies of the entry form to distribute to suitable homes in their area. Cllr. Isham suggested that the 2007 form be re-worded to say Town rather than Parish (of Buckingham) for the avoidance of doubt about the boundary.

It was agreed to insert an advertisement in the *Advertiser* Leisure Section.

ACTION THE CLERK

2006/243 CO-OPTION OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TRADERS’ ASSOCIATION

Cllr. Lehmann was reluctant to co-opt, as not all the agenda would be relevant to the traders; he was also concerned that the Traders Association was not fully representative of all the businesses in town, particularly the larger, national, enterprises.

Other views expressed were that the co-optee could send apologies if there were no relevant items on an agenda, that part of the Committee’s brief was to encourage trade in the town, and that co-option could be reviewed annually. Some indication of the membership could be sought.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that the Traders Association be approached to nominate a representative; the usefulness of the co-option to be reviewed after 1 year.

2006/244 MARKETS

In the absence of Cllr. Stevens, the following points only were noted:

244.1 Street Market

It had been reported at F&A that income had increased. However, there was still space on a Tuesday.

244.2 Flea Market

The new Saturday Finmere Boot Sale had affected trade as three introductory free weeks had been offered; now that both traders and customers had to pay the Flea Market trade was recovering. Space for casual traders was limited to 2 or 3 pitches each week.

244.3 Farmers' Market

Cllr. Desorgher felt the number and quality of vegetable stalls was poor. The Farm shops at Beachampton and Stowe would be contacted to see if they were interested in attending.

244.4 French Market

Organised and paid for.

244.5 Market Entertainment

The Chairman reported that Winslow Concert Band (in which he declared an interest, as President) would be willing to play in September. Members agreed that they be booked.

ACTION THE CLERK

Cllr. Mordue left the meeting,

2006/245 (231) STREET MARKET REFUSE COLLECTION

The responses received from 14 traders had been circulated to the Committee. Cllr. Lehmann analysed these as 5 would take their rubbish and 5 would not, including both veg.stalls, with 4 equivocal; Cllr. Newell disagreed, her reading of the responses showing 10 in favour of retaining refuse collection, 3 against and 1 undecided.

Members discussed alternative methods of ensuring the market area was kept clean and tidy in the event of insisting traders removed their own refuse. Someone should be paid to enforce the removal; traders who left refuse would be identified and banned. On windy days it would be difficult to identify the source of bags blown about, and traders could not leave their stalls unattended in order to litterpick.

A fee of £50 per market was suggested to pay the toby to enforce the clearing-up at the end of trading; it was also suggested that it might become part of the deputy Town Clerk's remit or the caretaker/handyman's.

Cllr. Cadd expressed concern that traders would simply fly-tip their rubbish on the way home, and it behove a responsible council to prevent this by providing a well-run, licensed, disposal service.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that the current contract for market clearance be terminated at the end of July; that a letter be sent to traders advising them of this; that the pitch rates be reduced by 20%; and that Mr. East be approached to supervise the clearing up at the end of each market day. The Chairman wished it to be minuted that he would not be available to do this.

A letter to the traders would be drafted and sent to Cllrs. Stuchbury, Collins and Lehmann for approval.

ACTION THE CLERK

The current contractor would be asked to quote for clearing the Charter Fairs; Cllr. Stuchbury argued against raising the cost to the Fair for 2006 due to the short notice. A specification for quoting for this job for 2007 would be considered at the next meeting.

JULY 3RD AGENDA

2006/246 STREET MARKET – RECRUITMENT PUBLICITY

An advertisement would be placed in the *Market Trade News* which is a free sheet handed out at local markets. Cllr. Lehmann had also volunteered to hand out flyers at Aylesbury market to see if their traders were interested in travelling to Buckingham.

ACTION CLLR. LEHMANN

2006/247 (225) CINEMA SPONSORSHIP SIGN (1)

Examples of signs were handed round the Committee and a decision reached later in the meeting.

2006/248 (230) ENVIRONMENT MONTH – REVIEW OF EVENTS TO DATE

Cllr. Newell reported that the Sandpit Open Day had been very well-attended and successful; she had not been able to attend the Bat Walk. Mrs. Robinson had enhanced her nature walk with poems and other illustrations of traditions to do with May. The Dawn Chorus had also been popular, although Holloway Spinney was newer woodland than Railway Walk and had fewer species. The collection of spectacles was going well, and BCC and Sustrans had provided literature and a Road Safety display for the market stall on the 13th.

2006/249 BONFIRE COLLECTION

The Chairman felt that it was good practice to discuss the destination of the monies collected at the bonfire each year.

Members felt that it was inappropriate to collect for the Mayor's Charities at a publicly funded event and suggested local charities.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the money collected at the Bonfire Event be paid to local children's charities.

2006/247 (225) CINEMA SPONSORSHIP SIGN (2)

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **AGREED** to have a sign with the swan logo and similar in size and wording to the AVDC one.

Cllr. Isham left the meeting.

2006/250 YOUTH BUDGET

Discussion was deferred to the July Meeting. Members were asked to give thought to suitable projects.

AGENDA JULY 3RD MEETING

2006/251 JUNE NEWSLETTER

As per F&A Minute 181.1 (8th May 2006), the June Newsletter would be based on Events. Cllr. Stevens was producing an item on the Markets; Cllrs. Stuchbury and Mordue would give details of forthcoming events and a report on the Music Festival.

ACTION CLLRS. MORDUE/STEVENS/ STUCHBURY

2006/252 COMMITTEE PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

As per the Action line in F&A Minute 186 (8th May 2006), each committee should designate a member to promote the work of the committee in the press and on radio. The Chairman volunteered.

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting.

2006/253 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Copies of the letters had been circulated with the agenda.

253.1 Pancake Race

Rotaract wished to return to the original course, rather than the High Street. Members felt that they needed to know more about why Rotaract wanted to do this, noting that the Police were happy for it to continue in the High Street and the new Road Closure system made it difficult to close Market Hill for an event.

253.2 Pealights, Cattle Pens

Mrs. Robinson had criticised the pealights being left on in the Cattle Pen trees. The AVDC Arboriculturalist had indicated that the lights did no damage to the trees, provided the ties were regularly checked for tightness. The lights had been in the trees for several years, although not switched on outside the Christmas period, and no effects had been noted. There were a number of other light sources in the Cattle Pens area.

253.3 Visitor complaint forwarded from T.I.C.

Members agreed that the response from the T.I.C. to the complainant was adequate and no further action was required.

253.4 Suggestion from Buckingham Primary School re May Day 2007

Members felt that the suggestion of a May Day celebration in Chandos Park was a good one, and other schools could be involved. Further action could best be taken in September at the beginning of the new school year.

2006/254 COMMITTEE BUDGET

This would become a standing item on the agenda. It was too early in the financial year to have any items to review.

2006/255 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Chairman announced that there was once again a rota for the late opening of chemists in the town, thanks to the intervention of the Patient & Public Involvement Forum at the request of the Council. (The Primary Care Trust had discontinued payment for the additional time some months ago).

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN DATE