

Session

There would be approximately the same number of floats as previously, some new organisations (including representatives from Mouvaux) having replaced those who had dropped out.

Organisation of a sufficient number of marshals was in hand, and would include students from the Royal Latin School VIth form. 32 barriers would be required.

There would be signs on every entrance road, some new ones being adapted from North Bucks Show signs (this would be a one-off cost of £250 for 2006 for repainting; in future years only the date would need to be changed) and Connells had agreed to put them out.

The Mayor was invited to judge the floats and other entries at 10am in Chandos Road. The other Councillors were invited to take part in the procession.

Mr. & Mrs Heywood also requested that a meeting with the Police be arranged. They would also arrange for the cones and barriers to be put out.

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

The subsequent discussion agreed the following:

1. That the Caretaker be asked to help with signs, cones and barriers as required, using the quadbike as necessary. Office to co-ordinate.
2. That the Office advise the extent of the Road Closure Order to Mr. & Mrs. Heywood, and the Parade's proportion of the cost.
3. To do a letter to all residents affected at the beginning of November with a reminder at the beginning of December.
4. To arrange a meeting with Thames Valley Police.
5. That a letter be sent to Buckingham Town Football Club requesting permission to utilise their car park as overflow (RLS and University car parks also available).
6. That BCC be asked for an adequate number of signs to be posted on Chandos Road, as well as through the Town Centre.
7. That 32 barriers be provided (the majority of these from Town Council store).
8. Road Closed/Diversion etc. signs ordered.

ACTION THE CLERK/CARETAKER

*Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **AGREED** that item 5 on the agenda be taken next, and that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Mr. West to address the meeting.*

2006/301 BUCKINGHAM WILDLIFE PROJECT

Mr. West spoke on behalf of BTCV and the Wildlife Project though he was no longer employed by them as his successor was not yet appointed.

He gave a brief outline of the work of the Project, and reminded Members that the 5 year span was up in 2009, though he hoped that the work would continue beyond this.

There had been good attendance at all the events and 90% of these were organised by volunteers. The schools had responded well and distributed the programme leaflets. Costs were small; the difficulty was finding the volunteers. He hoped the Town Council would help with co-ordinating the volunteer programme, though he would prefer it to be kept separate from the Events Committee's activities. Working with the new Project Co-ordinator would enable a gradual takeover; Members hoped for the new co-ordinator's help with maintaining the high standard of the programme leaflets, particularly the illustrations.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark and **AGREED** to reinstate Standing Orders.*

Mr. & Mrs. Heywood and Mr. West left the meeting

2006/302 ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES

The Action list had been circulated with the agenda. Updates were noted as follows:

302.1 (277.1) Best Kept Village

The judge's sheet had been circulated with the agenda; the general view was 'excellent', but the litter in the river, cemetery and War Memorial were noted as needing attention. Total score was 88/100.

302.2 (277.2) Thames & Chilterns in Bloom Award

The Town had won a Merit Award; a letter of thanks would be sent. Cllr. Newell advised that a member of the judging team was willing to address the Committee on the various aspects of the award and how best to present the town. The Committee agreed that this should be investigated and the Caretaker involved.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL

302.3 (278) Welcome signs

All the signs have now been installed.

302.4 (297) Christmas Party – The Mayor/The Chairman

Members felt that this was a matter for the whole Council, as it had been in the past; the matter should be put to an informal meeting after the Full Council on October 23rd.

ACTION ALL MEMBERS

2006/303 (292) THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENT MONTH

In light of changes to the way SAVE is organised at AVDC, Members discussed whether to continue to focus on environmental matters during May.

It was decided to concentrate of the Wildlife Programme, with as many events as possible during the month, and to select some item for collection and recycling at the office, as these had been the most supported aspects.

AGENDA EARLY 2007

2006/304 (279) TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE

Cllr. Newell reported that she had met with Cllrs. Stuchbury & Desorgher and the following had been decided:

Buckingham green metal finger posts with white lettering and custom swan finial:

1. In the car park, pointing to Town Centre. Public toilets, Town Council Offices, Library & AVDC/BCC offices, CAB, bus station, Old Gaol Museum/TIC/Police Office.
2. Town Centre, Market Hill: pointing to Toilets, bus station, St. Peter & St. Paul's church, CAB, Library & AVDC/BCC offices, Cemetery, free car parking, The Film Place, Community Centre & Town Council offices, Old Gaol Museum/TIC/Police office.

Members suggested also the Swan Pool, the University, other churches, and that distances be added.

A mounted Town Plan was also discussed, but felt to become too quickly out of date; also there was no budget for that currently. Sponsorship by the Traders' Association could be a possibility.

It was felt that the above were the two most important sign sites; coverage could be extended if the budget in future years allowed.

Members **AGREED** that the above signs be costed, and if within the budget, ordered.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL/THE CLERK

2006/305 CINEMA PROJECT

305.1 To receive a request for funding

Figures produced by The Film Place were circulated at the meeting. Members noted the deficit over the six months to June 2006 and pointed out that the requested amount would not cover the deficit extrapolated to one year.

*Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended briefly to allow Mrs. Cumming to answer questions.*

The deficit stated included set-up costs and would not extend to double the amount over the year; the grant from AVDC would offset it, and the cinema was now registered for VAT so the tax could be reclaimed. The management fees would also reduce by approximately half due to work done by volunteers; however costs would still be incurred in producing the accounts and running the web site. They hoped to break even by the end of the second year. The small summer audiences had not been predicted (other independent cinemas had found the same); 90 had been expected – a more realistic figure was 60. A more concentrated programme for the winter months and a different summer schedule was being planned.

Availability of films had been a problem, but a new distributor had been found.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that £1000 from the Youth Budget be allocated to The Film Place to subsidise young person's ticket prices.

An amendment proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that this request be entered into the budget requests for 2007-2008 was voted on: 4 for, 4 against; the Chairman cast his vote against.

Voting on the recommendation was 4 for, 4 against; the Chairman cast his vote for the recommendation.

305.2 To receive a request for the use of the Charity site in the market

305.3 To discuss the presentation of the sponsorship plaque

A stall to mark the first anniversary of The Film Place had been requested for 25th November 2006; Members agreed that the charity stall could be allocated for that Saturday, and that this would also be a suitable occasion to present the sponsorship plaque.

2006/306 (282) FUTURE OF 'BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM'

Cllr. Newell suggested that the School and Business competitions be retained, and the residential classes be discontinued. Members concurred, noting particularly the enthusiasm shown by the schoolchildren as something to be encouraged.

Members expressed regret that all but one of the winners of the 2006 competition had failed to attend the Forum to be presented with their prizes.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that the 2007 competition be restricted to schools (by entry) and businesses (by Council nomination).

2006/307 (288.4.2) REPORT ON THE BAND JAM EVENT

The Chairman reported that several hundred people had attended; there had been no trouble and letters of appreciation had been received afterwards. The majority of the musicians were local teenagers, some of whom had taken part in Rotaract's Battle of the Bands earlier in the month.

Comment was made about the frequent collections made on behalf of the performers; the Chairman pointed out that the Committee had only paid £400 from its Entertainment budget for the event, and that collections were an excusable way of meeting additional costs.

Cllr. Mordue arrived.

Members felt that this was an event comparable to the May Music Festival for a different audience, and that it should be funded separately and the Bull Ring used rather than the layby.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that if the event were to be mounted in 2007 it should be funded on the same basis as the May Music Festival.

2006/308 (284) REVIEW OF THE 2006 RIVER RINSE

Cllr. Newell reported that there had been a good turnout of Stowe Sub-Aqua and Buckingham Society members, although she had been the only Town Council representative. One member of the Stowe club had used his van to ferry items to the skip, which saved a lot of time and effort. Cllr. Newell had taken appropriate items to the recycling bins. A report with photo had appeared in the paper.

Cllr. Newell was thanked for her efforts. The River Rinse would be repeated next year on a length of river to be determined.

2006/309 (285) CHARTER FAIR

Cllrs. Stuchbury and Cadd would be available for the first Fair from 8am until the Fair was in, together with the Caretaker, and Town Clerk if necessary. Cllrs. Cadd and Isham would cover the second Fair. Care needed to be taken that the entire highway round the Town Hall roundabout was kept clear (this may mean the helterskelter could not be in its usual place). The Police would not be supplying an outrider to see the Fair in.

The Mayor would open the Fair at 1pm as usual, with the first hour free for disabled guests.

2006/310 (286) BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Cllr. Mordue reported that there would be a larger torchlit procession than last year's, and a company of the Sealed Knot (the "Earl of Northampton's") would attend. The stewards would be as last year, and Mr. Try would supply the PA. The collection would go to local children's charities as recommended in Committee minute 2006/249 (ratified on 30th May 2006, minute 2777.4) and this would be included in the publicity.

Cllrs. Isham and Cadd indicated that they had wood available for the bonfire.

ACTION CLLR. MORDUE

2006/311 (287) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

The Chairman declared an interest as President of the Winslow Concert Band.

A meeting would be organised with the band to discuss the programme.

The Mayor had invited the Rev. Ashby to say a few words at the ceremony and an invitation would be issued to the junior choir from Bourton Meadow to perform.

The Traders' Association was discussing extended shopping hours for the 25th November, but needed enough shops to agree to make it worthwhile.

A bill for £93.00 for replacing bulbs in the existing lights was agreed for payment.

Due to inadequate definition in the quotations, the cost of the pealights would be £568.20 per tree instead of the calculated £400.15; Members therefore decided to only do two instead of three trees.

ACTION THE CLERK

Replies had been received from all three other companies approached, indicating that they would come and view the existing installation in December, and then wait to be contacted for their suggestions to extend the scheme after Precept.

2006/312 MARKETS

312.1 To receive any reports on the markets

There had been no complaints about refuse clearance, either from the traders or the street sweeper.

In reply to an enquiry, it was confirmed that no more than two of the same type of stall was permitted.

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting

As the January Farmers' Market would fall on the 2nd, the day after the holiday, it was decided not to hold it. Many traders would not attend in any case due to lack of stock. The Market Toby would be asked for the street market trader's views about Christmas/New Year markets.

312.2 Market Entertainment

The Marionette Show booked in August had been asked to come again on 9th December; Cllr. Lehmann had agreed that it could be an added attraction at the Community Fair.

Owlswick Mummers were considering if they could perform in the Saturday Market in the run-up to Christmas; they had asked if they would be paid or should make a collection. It was agreed to make up the collection to the amount paid last year, in case the weather turned out as bad.

312.3 To discuss an article from *The Market Trader*

Cllr. Stevens had drawn the Committee's attention to an article in *The Market Trader* which described how a Council had used a stall in its market to promote the market and other attractions and hold an outdoor surgery.

Members felt the idea was interesting and could be pursued on Cllr. Stevens' return.

312.4 To consider whether any other specialist markets should be organised

German and Italian markets were suggested. The office would investigate and report to the next meeting.

ACTION THE CLERK

312.5 To receive a request from BCC for a site in the Market

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning had requested space in the market on Saturday 25th November to promote the new centre in Verney Close. They would have a 3m square gazebo.

Members agreed; pitch to be charged at the usual rate.

ACTION THE CLERK

312.6 To receive for information a report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

A copy of the report *Markets as social spaces* had been circulated with the agenda. The study had looked at 8 markets of different types and drawn the following conclusions:

A successful market had

- features to attract visitors (eg entertainment, products suited to local needs)
- opportunities to linger (food van, informal seating)
- good access (particularly by public transport)
- active community of traders
- well-laid out site with wide aisles etc.
- proximity to other retail outlets
- effective management and leadership by the council

The study underlined the role of a market in social interaction and social inclusion in communities. Members were pleased to see that Buckingham markets matched the indicators well.

2006/313 (290) AVDC GRANTS SYSTEM

AVDC had supplied details of two successful bids for funds (for a contribution to a playground and to a nature area); the Clerk had provided a comparison sheet for these and the BTC bid (towards providing entertainment in the market on 4 separate occasions during the summer).

The principal difference was that the successful bids involved defined projects, for which detailed costings/quotations were available and the benefits to the community clear; these criteria would be more appropriate to E&P projects than Events activities.

Members felt that the system disadvantaged bids which were not amenable to alternative quotations for best price, such as booking different types of performance, and whose aim of drawing extra shoppers into the town to enhance the viability of the town centre shops and markets was not capable of quantification.

A letter would be sent expressing this view.

ACTION THE CLERK

2006/314 AVDC'S TOURING ARTS AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMES

Members had been circulated with the details, but felt that the programme was more appropriate to villages.

2006/315 TO DISCUSS THE USE OF £250 GARDEN VOUCHERS, BEING THE PRIZE FOR AYLESBURY VALE IN BLOOM 2004 (REFERRED FROM E&P COMMITTEE)

The following were **AGREED**:

1. To use £125-worth as prizes for the Buckingham in Bloom 2007 (£75 for the Schools class and £50 Business class; the silver salver for the latter being discontinued)
2. To buy some additional plants for the planters outside the Sorting Office, as some colour was needed among the evergreens
3. To replace the leased arrangement in the office lobby which had succumbed to the summer heat.

ACTION THE CLERK/CARETAKER

2006/316 BUDGET

The 2006-7 Budget figures had been provided to Members with an indicative 4% increase noted in the final column.

The following points arose from the discussion and agreed:

- 4078 Signs: A budget of £1500 should be retained for signage so that coverage could be increased within the town (Min.304)
- A new budget line for the Band Jam event; this would need to take account of their proportion of the Road Closure Order if the Bull Ring were to be used. Additional funding would be sought from AVDC and BCC, but could not, of course, be guaranteed. Members agreed an amount of £1500 to include the Road Closure.
- 4107 Pride of Place: as (Min.315) the vouchers were to be used for prizes and the residential classes discontinued (therefore no advertising budget would be required) no budget was necessary for 2007-8.
- 4232 Barriers: an amount of up to £1000 for steel barriers to augment the plastic ones.
- 4260 Twinning: although the next planned visit was to be to Mouvaux in April, and the Mayor's travel and gift would come out of the current budget, it would be wise to make provision for a Civic Visit occurring in the 2007-8 fiscal year. Cllr. Mordue would liaise with the Twinning Association over a likely date.

ACTION CLLR. MORDUE

A short discussion on the gift for the April visit centred on the suggestion of an oak tree; this would have to be sourced from a nursery with appropriate certification and delivered for planting during the winter months.

2006/317 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

317.1 DemGames

The ODPM had set up a web site game which allowed members of the public to "be a Councillor for a day" making decisions and finding out about the work of a Council. It was primarily directed at young people and could be customised with a Council logo and was free. Arrangements had been made for this to be linked to the Town Council site and when this was operational it would be publicised.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

CHAIRMAN DATE