

MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th
MARCH 2007 AT 7.00pm

<u>PRESENT</u>	Councillor	H. Cadd	
		Mrs. P. Desorgher	
		D. R. Isham	
		R. Lehmann	
		H. Mordue	
		R. Newell	
		Mrs. P. Stevens	
		P. Strain-Clark	
		R. Stuchbury	(Chairman)
	For the Town Clerk	Mrs. K. McElligott	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Collins (Mayor), Ms. H. Saul and co-opted member Mr. M. Foster, Chairman, Buckingham Traders' Association.

361/2007 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

362/2007 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members accepted the minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd January 2007, which were ratified at the Council meeting held on 5th February 2007.

363/2007 ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES

363.1 (339) Pancake Race

In the absence of Mr. Foster this item was postponed.

363.2 (342) Youth Art Project

The Chairman reported that artwork from Grenville Combined School on the subject of Book Week was being put up in the Library this week; Buckingham Primary's would follow in due course. There was no news from Bourton Meadow, but their art teacher was enthusiastic. He was meeting the secondary school's Heads of Art on Thursday.

Members **AGREED** to pay the money allocated in minute 342 in advance so that the schools could purchase materials.

363.3 (343) Digital Camera

Cllr. Cadd will investigate prices and liaise with the Town Clerk over purchase, so that a camera is available for May 1st.

363.4 (344) A board

In the absence of Mr. Foster this item was postponed.

363.5 (349) Twinning Visit

Cllr. Mordue confirmed the purchase of a *Quercus robur fastigiata* (Common English Oak, columnar form) and proposed a sign in English and French to say “Presented to Mouvaux from Buckingham to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Twinning” with both town badges.

363.6 (352.1) May Day event

The other primary schools had been contacted about adding to the entertainment. Members felt that publicity should include Age Concern and similar organisations as well as the *Advertiser*.

363.7 (352.2) Teddy Bears Picnic

The date had been set as June 24th and the marionette theatre had been booked, but it was apparent that the teddy bear manufacturer on the Industrial Estate had ceased trading. Members offered teddy bears for prizes for the event.

The University had been informed of the Road Closure Order applied for covering Church Hill for various Town Council and Church events, so that students could be made aware well in advance of the dates.

Cost breakdown of the order per event to be circulated for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION APRIL AGENDA

363.8 (356) Coach Parking

Buckingham Athletic had replied positively, suggesting a meeting and confirming that the ground was leased from AVDC. Members asked that the Partnership be informed of this and the matter put on the agenda for 22nd March 2007.

When suitable coach parking was agreed, Members felt it should be publicised as widely as possible.

364/2007 (341) HANGING BASKETS AND PLANTERS

Quotations had been received from three companies and a summary circulated with the agenda.

It was agreed to order hanging baskets from Amethyst Horticulture and planters for the Bull Ring (summer and winter) and White Hart island (summer only) from Plantscape; colour scheme to be pink/lavender/white as last year. The Committee agreed to fund half the basket between 13 and 14 Market Square as one trader had not responded.

AVDC would be asked if their horticultural contract included regular maintenance of the troughs by the Community Centre, and whether the Town Council could undertake the work on their behalf to keep them tidy and attractive.

The press would be informed of the installation date for the planters and hanging baskets.

ACTION THE CLERK

365/2007 (347) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Three quotations had been received and summarised; these were circulated at the meeting. Members were informed that an email received before the meeting indicated that a local contractor had offered to quote for installation; it was felt that a decision should be made at this meeting as the tenderers had been so informed.

The Clerk was asked to investigate a three year contract with Festive Lighting and their installers WGS Power and Lighting Ltd., and to take up references.

A new quotation would be sought for High Street pealights to include removal of the existing system, the lights to remain on all summer. Members chose white as a suitable year-round colour. The Clerk would also investigate whether the lights in the Bull Ring tree could be left on every night throughout the year.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that when details were available the Chairman, Cllr Lehmann and Cllr Stevens would meet to make a decision.

Quotations for new feeder pillars should be available for the next meeting. The Clerk was meeting the BCC contractor on 11th April to walk the area for his information.

A letter of thanks had been received from the Mrs. Wells, on behalf of her son Jake who had switched on the 2006 lights.

ACTION THE CLERK/CLLRS. STUCHBURY, LEHMANN & STEVENS

366/2007 BUCKINGHAM SUMMER FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

366.1 Progress report

Cllr. P. Strain-Clark reported on the meeting that had been held on 21st February and the subsequent walk round various possible venues in the town and parks with Mr. Clucas, who was taking over the event from Mr. Barham.

The Fortnight would run from 7th July to 22nd July, with *Peter and the Wolf* including local schoolchildren and three performances of *The Tempest* by the Old Gaolers – an al fresco production had been suggested. The marquee and its security was a considerable expense and AVDC were looking to do without it if possible.

Owlswick Morris had been booked for 7th July to perform in the market area.

The public meeting was to be held on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30 in the Community Centre.

366.2 Art Event

The Committee discussed an art event to be held in the Cattle Pens on the Sundays of the Festival; local artists could be approached to show their work. AVDC would be approached for contact details of various arts groups and publicity via the *Advertiser* organised.

ACTION THE CLERK

367/2007 TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE

The suggested positions were by the seats outside the Chamber window and by the bollards outside Jardine's. The Clerk would write for permission and obtain quotations for installation.

The posts and fingers had been delivered; the custom finials were awaited. One finger had arrived damaged and was being replaced.

ACTION THE CLERK

368/2007 PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE

The Town Clerk had asked for agreement on the hours, days and area for the Town Centre Entertainment Licence, necessary for Music Festivals, other entertainments and the carols at Christmas.

Members felt that for flexibility 10am – midnight, 7 days a week, should be applied for, though it could be made clear that events were infrequent. It was also suggested that the whole parish should be included, to cover events in Bourton Park and at Embleton Way. The Chairman recommended a diary note so that renewal could be arranged without a gap occurring.

369/2007 MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Members agreed to invite Buckingham Acoustic Club to the next meeting to update the Committee and discuss any problems.

ACTION THE CLERK

370/2007 ENVIRONMENT MONTH 2007

The Community Wildlife Action Group was planning a summer programme, hopefully on the same lines as last year. Events would be included on the Town Council web site. Cllr. Newell would liaise with the group and report next meeting.

ACTION APRIL AGENDA

371/2007 BAND JAM EVENT

Town Council funding had been confirmed to the organiser, who was now looking for further sponsorship. The Chairman would be arranging a meeting in the near future. Members suggested other entities could be involved – BCC Youth Services' climbing wall, OutReach – and AVDC would also be asked. PSL would be invited to cater.

ACTION THE CLERK/CLLR. STUCHBURY

372/2007 BONFIRE COLLECTION

The charity collection at the 2006 Bonfire had totalled £266.68.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RECOMMENDED** that the collection be divided between the Baby Café and Helen House Hospice [as per Minute 2006/249 ratified 30th May 2006].

There would be a press release to this effect following ratification.

373/2007 THAMES & CHILTERN IN BLOOM COMPETITION

The Council had been invited to take part in this year's competition. Cllr. Newell would take up the offer of guidance made after last year's competition [Min.302].

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL

374/2007 TAXI RANK PROVISION

Mr. Seal had responded that there was no limitation policy on the Vale outside Aylesbury Town; there were currently 75 red-plated taxis (those that can ply for hire and use the taxi rank) in the district. He gave no total for yellow-plate (on-call only) in the area and the two Buckingham firms accounted for 25 taxis.

BCC had been undertaking a review of taxi-rank provision and he enclosed a map showing three proposed spaces in the Old Gaol layby. An evening rank in the market area – Woolworths-Tesco side - had also been requested, and he asked

1. Is either proposal in the right place to serve the town?
2. How many parking spaces would be required?
3. Are daytime and night time circumstances so different that alternative ranks should be provided?
4. Should the existing rank in Cornwall's Meadow continue to operate?

Members pointed out that the market area and the Gaol layby were subject to road closure for music events and the Fair, which ran on into the evening hours. The Cornwall's Meadow rank was much used by shoppers, but not in the evenings; it was not well signposted, particularly from the Bus Stand. A designated taxi space by the Bus Stand in the High Street would be of use for persons attending the two doctor's surgeries and the hospital, and for those joining holiday tour coaches. A taxi rank in the town centre would be acceptable for evening use only (hours to be limited by the existing waiting limits in Market Hill). Members also felt that firms operating 'yellow-plate' cars should have adequate off-road parking for all their vehicles.

375/2007 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (JANUARY 26th)

Cllr. Newell had circulated details of the events linked to this day in Milton Keynes in 2006. School pupils studied World War II in history; it was pointed out that sections of populations were still being subjected to such treatment to the present day. Members felt that the senior schools should be involved, and the University.

Cllr. Newell would find out what the theme was to be for 2008 and liaise with the Chairman.

ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY/CLLR. NEWELL

376/2007 MARKETS

376.1 Street Market

Cllr. Cadd noted that on the previous Saturday, the planters had all been moved to the edges of the area, and that the fruit and vegetable trader had stacked boxes etc. by them, making the area untidy.

Cllr. Stevens would speak to the market toby on Tuesday.

ACTION CLLR. STEVENS

[Clerk's note: Market toby reported that all the planters had been overturned and thrown about on the Friday night. The traders had cleared up as best they could before setting up the stall]

376.1.1 Market Refuse Collection – six month review

Cllr. Lehmann reported that traders removing their own refuse at the end of the day seemed to be working; there had been no complaints from traders, the street sweepers or members of the public.

376.2 Flea Market

The number of stalls fluctuated with the weather, but in general the market was doing well. There were only two spaces left for casuals each week.

376.3 Farmers' Market

Attendance figures had been circulated for April 2006-March 2007; a total of 13 or 14 stalls was usual. Cllr. Stevens reported that the cake stall ('Wisteria Cottage') would not be able to come any longer, due to illness. However, depending on the weather, the plants stalls and the soft-fruit stall would be attending soon.

The putting out of signs issue appeared to have been resolved; the office staff both shopped in the market and any complaints and comments were normally voiced then. The Clerk would be checking contact details for each trader as usual in the April market.

376.4 (354.4, 354.5) Continental Markets

Considerable difficulty was being experienced in booking specialist markets, especially for May. Several organisers were looking for 3-4 days stand.

The Clerk asked for, and received, permission to book markets as offered for the three dates (May 27th; August 26th; November 24th) as time was of the essence.

ACTION THE CLERK

376.5 Charity Stall

The Friends of Buckingham Primary School had asked to use the Charity stall to sell raffle tickets on 21st April. Members agreed, and asked that they be reminded they would need a licence for the raffle.

376.6 Country Markets' flower stall

Buckingham Country Markets had written asking to place their flower and plant stall outside the Office as they had the previous year.

Members discussed the request and felt that the stall would be better placed in the market; there was space in the Saturday market currently, and it might be more convenient for Country Market personnel being closer to the Chantry Chapel.

376.7 National Childbirth Trust banner

The National Childbirth Trust had requested permission to put up a banner advertising their Nearly New sale on the Cattle Pen railings. It would be removed after the sale on Saturday 17th March. Members agreed.

377/2007 BUDGET

There were no further budget items.

378/2007 PRESS RELEASES

There were no press releases further to those noted above (Minutes 364, 366.2, 372)

379/2007 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

There were no Chairman's Items.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

CHAIRMAN DATE
12th March 2007.doc page 6 of 6