

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 26th October 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. H. Cadd - Mayor  
Cllr. Mrs. Desorgher  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. D. Isham  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury - Chairman

Also present: Cllr. M. Try  
Mr. & Mrs S. Heywood Christmas Parade  
Ms. Lightfoot Buckingham Traders' Association

For the Town Clerk Mrs. K. McElligott

#### **533/09 Apologies for absence**

Members **AGREED** to note apologies from Councillors Ms. R. Newell and Mrs. Stevens.

#### **534/09 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** that item 9 on the agenda be taken next.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Mr. & Mrs. Heywood to address the meeting.

***Cllr. Try arrived during the following item:***

#### **535/09 Minutes**

Members **AGREED** to receive the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and approved at Full Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

#### **536/09 Christmas Parade**

The Parade was almost finalised; one or two people had yet to confirm.  
A large contingent of 54 from Mouvaux was expected, with their own band and 3 of the Flanders Giants. Travel was at their own expense, but accommodation was still

being sought for 20 people; the Twinning Association had found places to stay for 34 already (this would be bed-and-breakfast Friday and Saturday nights only, a dinner had been organised for the Saturday evening). Members were asked to publicise the need for the remainder of the accommodation.

The British All-Stars Cheerleaders were attending, as was the Rockhopper studio which would be parked by the Community Centre after the Parade.

Winslow Concert Band would be performing under the Waitrose canopy, and there would also be displays from the majorettes, continuing the event into a whole day.

Some costs were not yet known and the budget was an estimated £150 overspent already, if all attended who had promised; the bill from the Council for road closure and use of barriers and signs was £297.

The suggestion was made that an additional sign advertising the Parade could be sited on the verge by the min-roundabout on the London Road facing traffic emerging from Tesco. The Clerk would make enquiries.

A meeting with the Police would be organised to discuss any difficulties.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Members discussed the matter of the costs for the road closure and the internal accounting for the use of the Council's barriers and signs.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, and **AGREED** that these costs be absorbed by the Committee budget for this year only.

The matter of the role of the carnival Queen at the Bonfire event would be discussed later under the relevant agenda item.

*Mr. & Mrs. Heywood left the meeting.*

*Agenda order was resumed.*

## **537/09      Action Report**

### **537.1 (648.2)      Fingerposts**

Permission had been sought from AVDC; they had required photos of the site and the signpost. The Chairman pointed out that the Town Council had been requested to provide the fingerposts by the Partnership in 2006 with little co-operation since.

### **537.2 (682)      Biodegradable dog bags**

This was being progressed by the university as part of the Green Buckingham campaign, with funds remaining in the Buckingham Bag account.

### **537.3 (701.2,417.3) Tree Planting**

The difference between the two items was explained: "Every Action Counts" was a project supported by Cllr. Newell, one aspect of which was the planting of more trees in the town. The Committee had agreed to contact the senior schools with a view to providing fruit trees to plant in their grounds.

With the District Council also having a tree-planting programme, there was a risk that trees might be concentrated in a few areas rather than distributed about the

whole town. It was suggested that Cllr. Newell co-ordinate the planting plans of AVDC, BCWP and the Town Council to ensure this.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

## **538/09 Traders' Association**

### 538.1/538.2 Report, Christmas preparations, snow machine contribution

Ms. Lightfoot outlined the Association's plans for the pre-Christmas season; late opening on Thursdays and 23<sup>rd</sup> December, with musical entertainment outside the Old Gaol and fake snow provided by a machine. The Old Gaol's Santa's Grotto would also be open on these evenings. Window dressing throughout the town would be co-ordinated and based on vinyl snowflakes. Two banners – one for the High Street and one for the Old Gaol railings – and notices at all the gateways to the town were proposed, and leaflets all on the theme "All you need for Christmas is here".

The Town Council were providing Winslow Concert Band for the lighting ceremony on 29<sup>th</sup> November, and Owlswick Mummers to entertain on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Hiron, and **AGREED** to contribute £50 from 4228/301 towards the hiring of the snow machine.

Cllr. Try indicated that he could provide a Y-connector so that an electricity supply could be arranged from the Christmas Tree socket.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that up to £50 from 4201/301 be allowed to provide the necessary connector.

**ACTION CLLR. TRY**

Shopping maps: the Traders proposed A1 maps on noticeboards sited on the rear wall of Waitrose, at Western Avenue car park and in the town centre adjacent to existing board by the Old Gaol. The Association would write to Waitrose; the Clerk would enquire about the other two sites.

**ACTION TRADERS ASS<sup>N</sup>/CLERK**

### 538.3 A-boards

Concern had been expressed at the Planning meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October at the number, size and inconsiderate placement of A-boards in the town. The Council could remove the boards, but would prefer self-regulation and that boards be kept to one per business, of a reasonable size, and so sited as to not obstruct the passage of pushchairs and electric buggies.

*Ms. Lightfoot left the meeting.*

*The Chairman moved that 6.9 be taken first.*

## **539/09 Markets**

### 539.1 Market Co-ordinator

The Committee agreed that the Committee Clerk be appointed Acting Market Co-ordinator.

### 539.2 Market Healthcheck

Members decided to re-form the Market SubGroup (Cllrs. Bloomfield, Isham, Mrs. Stevens & Smith, with the Chairman, ex-officio). The SubGroup would review the Healthcheck report and identify priority areas to bring to the next meeting.

### 539.3 Market Income Figures

Members noted the latest figures.

### 539.4 Farmers Market Flyer

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **AGREED** that the quotation from bcq for 1000 x A5 leaflets be accepted and paid for from market income [1001/302]

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### 539.5 NABMA

Various items had been received from NABMA and circulated with the agenda. In future, such news and requests would be forwarded to the Market SubGroup and items of interest selected and forwarded to the rest of the Committee.

**ACTION MARKET SUBGROUP**

### 539.6 TV Advert

Members decided the advertisement would not be cost-effective.

### 539.7 Requests for additional market trading over Christmas/New Year

Mr. Pelling and Mr. Proctor (flowers) had requested permission to stand on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and JRTrading (fruit and vegetables) had requested permission to stand on Christmas Eve only, as there would be no Saturday market on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Members granted these requests; Mr Pelling in his usual place on the Bull Ring, and the others on the Old Cattle Pens.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### 539.8 Request for regular booking of the Charity space in the Saturday market

Members felt that it was unfair to other charities to make a regular booking of the free space. The guidelines ruling the booking of the Charity place would be circulated to Members for the next meeting.

### 539.10 Market Entertainment

Members noted that Owlswick Mummers would be entertaining in the market area on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## **540/09 Bonfire & Fireworks**

540.1 Cllr. Mahi reported that the event was on track, and appealed for Councillor support in the Park on Saturday (to build the bonfire) and Sunday (to litterpick), 10am both days.

Members discussed the attendance of the Carnival Queen and agreed that she could assist the Cadets with the Charity collection; the sash would publicise the Parade, and otherwise she should dress appropriately. She would not take part in the torch procession for safety reasons. The Mayor would light the bonfire.

The Mayor would also judge the Best-Dressed Guy competition at 1pm outside the Old gaol; suitable small gifts would be purchased for distribution to all entrants.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

540.2 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **AGREED** that the collection be donated to the CAB, as the Mayor's Charity.

Cllr. Mahi was thanked for his work on the event.

## **541/09 Christmas Lights & Carols/ Continental Market**

The icicle lights had been installed that day, including the ones over Barclays that had been missed in 2008. The contractor reported that a cable in the pealight installation had proved to be broken; he had no spare to hand. When he was back in the area he would replace the cable and test the remaining lights.

Most of the owners of Bridge Street properties had responded to the request for permission to install the supports for lights; Cllr. Smith undertook to talk to the owners who had not yet given permission, as a gap meant the entire scheme would have to be abandoned. The lights needed supports at regular intervals.

**ACTION CLLR. SMITH**

## **542/09 Pancake Race**

Cllr. Bloomfield reported that, further to the update circulated with the agenda, competitors would be asked to bring their own frying pans, and that the age groups could be changed if necessary. Members agreed that Cllr. Bloomfield should do some early publicity for the race.

**ACTION CLLR. BLOOMFIELD**

Cllr. Hirons noted that the race was traditionally started by a single stroke of the Church bell.

## **543/09 Event Reviews**

### **543.1 River Rinses**

A number of tyres had been retrieved from the first Rinse, which have to be disposed of separately. About 15 people had volunteered from the University for the second Rinse, and expressed themselves as willing to help with other events – a letter of thanks would be sent.

The skip was filled on both days; it would be advisable to budget for two skips for each rinse next year, which would also enable some sorting of the rubbish to take place.

### **543.2 Democracy Week debate**

The Chairman reported that this had turned out well, with approximately 25 pupils from each school taking part in debates on

- transport (public transport was inadequate; teenagers would like to be independent and not have to rely on their parents);
- the teaching of foreign languages in schools (on balance, felt to be important)
- the BNP; some pupils had researched the BNP website and made pertinent points, particularly with respect to the repatriation policy.

Mr. Bercow had explained the principles of democracy, the role of Parliament and the importance of using your vote.

As the event had been successful, it might be repeated next year.

### **543.3 Charter Fairs**

Both Fairs had come in without problems.

Cllr. Isham raised a safety question regarding the cable protector mats which will be discussed with the Nicholls at the review meeting. He felt the dark colour did not give sufficient warning of the underlying cable.

The previous Town Clerk had offered her help and advice to the Deputy Clerk as she was on leave locally; she would be thanked for her contribution, as would ex-Councillor David Stevens who had helped with the second Fair.

It had been suggested that removal of two bollards on the Cattle Pens and on the Bus Station island and their replacement with removable bollards would aid the installation of rides at Fair time. The Nicholls would be willing to pay for this. The Clerk would investigate the idea with AVDC and find out costs; an agreement could then be drawn up for the Nicholls to sign.

Cllr. Newell had expressed concerns at the use of goldfish as prizes.

Complaints had been received from the Showmen about an alternative source of free ride labels for the disabled, handed out at the Opening. It was decided that next year the official stickers would be sent out by post only to applicants, and that the Chairman would deal with the other source.

#### 543.4 Festival Fortnight

The final figures for AVDC expenditure had been circulated with the agenda. Mr Clucas would be asked to invoice the Council for the over-run payment as agreed at the last meeting.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

#### 544/09 Buckingham Summer Festival

Buckingham Summer Festival had requested that the buffer fund of £500 [4213/301] be made available to them. Some of their funding had been reduced or withdrawn.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED**; Members requested that a meeting be held with Cllr. Thompson (AVDC) to discuss appropriate funding for an event with such importance for the town. Cllrs. Smith and Stuchbury volunteered to attend this meeting.

#### 545/09 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Members noted the report and agreed that Cllr. Newell should report on the Project for each meeting.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

#### 546/09 Armed Forces Day

Members noted that the suggested date, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2010, coincided with the Teddy Bears Picnic.

The timing was needed for the Road Closure Order; a blanket period would not do for a rolling closure as for Remembrance Day.

Members discussed whether the event as proposed did sufficient justice to the service performed by the Armed Forces, and decided to ask the Mayor to place the matter on the Full Council agenda, and Cllr. Mordue to produce a supporting paper giving details of the proposed event.

**547/09 Electrical Supply in the Parks**

The Chairman advocated the installation of electrical sources in the parks; this would extend the range of events that could be held in the parks, and do away with the need to hire generators.

Members discussed various aspects, including flood risk, relating to a power supply for the two parks.

It was considered that further investigation would be useful for Chandos Park where there was already a supply to the pavilion and the toilets, but Bourton Park was not likely to be feasible due to the distances involved.

The costs of a rising pillar connection would be investigated.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**548/09 Road Closure Order**

No changes were noted, apart from the Armed Forces Parade.

**549/09 Hanging Baskets, Planters and Additional Planting**

Cllrs. Newell and Bloomfield would report to the next meeting.

**ACTION CLLRS. NEWELL & BLOOMFIELD/DECEMBER AGENDA**

**550/09 Youth Projects**

The project was moving on slowly; there would be a report for the next meeting.

**DECEMBER AGENDA**

**551/09 "Giant" Project**

Members declined to contribute to this proposal.

**552/09 Anti-social Behaviour Campaigns**

The information was noted.

**553/09 Best Kept Village Competition**

The results and marks were noted.

**554/09 Music in Quiet Places/Perfect Village Sunday**

The details would be forwarded to the Church.

**555/09 Jazz Festival**

Buckingham Athletic Football Club had asked for the Council's co-operation in an event to celebrate the upgrading of their premises. A jazz festival had been suggested, possibly part of the Festival Fortnight.

Members suggested allowing a small budget for the event, but preferred the idea of it contributing to the Fortnight.

**556/09 Band Jam - complaint**

A resident of the Heartlands had complained about the noise of the Band Jam event.

Members pointed out that the estimated attendance was considerably more than that mentioned in the letter, and that the event featured local bands and was attended by all agegroups.

A letter would be sent to the complainant.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**557/09 Budgets**

Members considered the figures provided; the sheet is attached.

- 4232 Barriers: budget could now be reduced to cover repairs and replacements
- 4208/4211 redistribution to equalize the budgets of Music in the Market and Band Jam
- 4094 increased youth budget had community dividends
- the income from the Fair should have a separate heading
- 4017 'subscription stopped' was an error; this was for the NABMA subscription

The Market SubGroup would look at the income from the markets.

**558/09 News releases**

558.1 If the Bridge Street lights cannot be installed due to negative responses, a press release will be drawn up to explain this.

558.2 Cllr. Bloomfield pre-publicity re the Pancake Race.

**559/09 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman noted that next year was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of The Buckingham School, and some sort of celebration was planned; it was hoped that as many as possible of the former pupils would attend.

Members agreed to support the event in principle, pending further information.

**560/09 Date of the next meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chairman