

TCE/03/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee of Buckingham Town Council** held on **Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.00pm online via Zoom.**

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	Vice Chair
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. Mrs. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	Chair
Cllr. Mordue	

Also attending	Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
	Mrs. A. Brubaker	Events Co-ordinator
	Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC SESSION**

A member of the public attended the public session to speak to members regarding the Charter Fair. The advice provided by the Safety Advisory Group was highlighted and Members acknowledge that Nichols Amusements would not be bringing the Charter Fair to Buckingham in 2020.

**332/20 Apologies for Absence**  
Members received apologies from Councillor Mahi.

**333/20 Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**334/20 Forthcoming Town Council Events****334.1/20 Dog Show**

Members praised the Events Coordinator and LHSCC Coordinator for their efforts to deliver a success online dog show. The Events Coordinator said the event had been well received, and had resulted in 101 entries for categories including Fabulous Fella, Gorgeous Gal, Best Rescue and Golden Oldie. Entries were posted on the Town Council's social media sites, with a 7pm deadline. The classes were then judged the following morning by Cllr. O'Donoghue and Kimberley Cox and the winners notified the same day. The winner of each class would go through to Best in Show which would be judged on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**334.2/20 Charter Fairs**

Members received a written report from the Events Coordinator. The Town Clerk reported that the Head Showman would like to bring a traditional strongman (Tapper) game into the town on Saturday 17th October and Saturday 24th October and set it up in the cattle pens. The Events Coordinator confirmed that any rides or

games provided by Nichols Amusements would remain inactive and then Nichols Amusements would remove the ride later that day. Cllr. Harvey reminded Members of the ban on giving pets as prizes at Buckingham Town Council's Charter Fair. Members discussed the recommendations within the report and unanimously **AGREED** that the Charter Fairs be cancelled in 2020 in light of the advice provided by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). Members acknowledged and **AGREED** that Nichols Amusements be allowed to bring in the rides as proposed.

#### **334.3/20 Christmas Lights Switch On**

Members received a written report from the Events Coordinator and discussed the recommendations therein. Cllr. Harvey spoke in favour of the recommendation to film the switch on with drone footage and suggested a coordinated cascade of lights where housing estates/areas switch their lights on in stages, thereby cascading a sequence of lights across the town. Cllr. Harvey suggested prerecording performances by local choirs and silver bands to publish alongside the online switch on. Cllr. Ahmed said it might be more effective to record the event using 2-3 drones and suggested a montage of resident' Christmas light photos and videos to create a Community Christmas light switch on video.

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked Members for their contributions and asked for any further suggestions to be forwarded to the Events Coordinator.

Members discussed the Officer report and the following recommendations were unanimously **AGREED**:

- It is recommended that the Christmas Light Switch On event does not take place in 2020. The area where the event takes place is quite small and we would not be able to keep everyone who is taking part safely distanced from the crowd and other participants.
- It is recommended that the Town Council encourages residents to all switch on their lights and decorations at the same time. This will encourage everyone to be at home. The Town Council will seek to record the switch on with footage from a drone flown above the town.

#### **334.4/20 Bonfire & Fireworks**

Members received a written report from the Events Coordinator and discussed the recommendations therein. Cllr. Harvey suggested coordinating a fireworks display from a remote location that Buckingham residents could watch from their gardens. Cllr. Gateley said that inevitably people would be drawn to any fireworks event and even small crowds would be putting residents and Buckingham Town Council staff at risk. The Town Clerk said it was possible that cancelling the event would increase the number of people setting off fireworks in back gardens and public spaces. While it is illegal for under 18s to buy fireworks, there is a risk of injury to those using fireworks in private settings and it is therefore proposed that the Council strongly promotes safety messages during the run up to bonfire night.

Members voted on the following report recommendations:

- It is recommended that the Bonfire & Fireworks display for 2020 is cancelled because it would not be possible to comply with the current Government Guidelines and not being able to hold large events at this time.
- It is recommended that the Council strongly promotes safety messages during the run up to bonfire night.

The results of the vote were:

In favour 6

Abstentions 1

**ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

### 335/20 Forthcoming Partnership Events

#### 335.1/20 Christmas Parade

Cllr. Mordue thanked the Town Council and staff, without whose help the parade wouldn't happen each year. Cllr. Mordue said it was with regret that in light of the government's guidance the Parade Committee had decided to cancel the Christmas Parade for 2020. Cllr. Mordue asked if the event budget could be rolled in order to facilitate an even bigger celebration for 2021's Christmas Parade.

The Committee thanked the Parade Committee for making a sensible decision and the Chairman asked Cllr. Mordue to bring the budgetary issue back to the next meeting of TC&E.

**ACTION Cllr Mordue and Committee Clerk**

Members unanimously **AGREED** the report recommendations that the Town Council does not provide the road closure for the annual Christmas Parade in 2020.

*Cllr. Mordue left the meeting at this point in the agenda.*

#### 335.2/20 Remembrance Parade

Members received and discussed written report from the Events Coordinator and unanimously **AGREED** the following recommendations:

- It is recommended that the Town Council does not provide the road closure for the Remembrance Day Parade this year.
- It is recommended that the Green Spaces Team still carry out the tidy up around the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday ahead of any service and wreath laying that may take place.
- It is recommended that the Town Council allows its YouTube channel to be used to broadcast the wreath laying and service from the memorial, if these are held.

### 336/20 Event Reviews

#### 336.1/20 Summer Youth Project

Members received a verbal report from the Events Coordinator and noted the events programme that ran throughout the schools' summer holidays in Bourton Park, Chandos Park and the Buckingham Skate Park.

Cllr. O'Donoghue proposed a treasure hunt to take place during one of the weekends of the Charter Fair and organised by the Young Leaders of Buckingham Youth Club. Members **AGREED** for Cllr. O'Donoghue to explore the issue and bring a report back to the next meeting of the TC&E Committee.

**ACTION CLLR. O'DONOGHUE & EVENTS COORDINATOR**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported on the recent repairs to Buckingham Skate Park and Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to formally thank the Cabinet Member on behalf of Buckingham Town Council for efforts in arranging for the repair works to Buckingham Skate Park so quickly. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**337/20 Local Democracy Week**

Members discussed the history of the event and unanimously **AGREED** the following:

- Cllr Ahmed expressed an interest in being part of the Local Democracy event.
- Event Coordinator to create a record of subjects discussed at previous years' events.
- Local youth groups, Stowe School, Akeley Wood and Sir Thomas Freemantle Schools to be invited to participate.
- Greg Smith MP to be invited to host the event.

**ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

**338/20 News Releases**

Members **AGREED** for the office to issue a press release on the following: Cancellation of the Charter Fair for 2020, Christmas Light Switch On, Bonfire and Fireworks.

Members recognised that RBL and Christmas Parade Committee would issue their own communication on the Remembrance and Christmas Parades.

**339/20 Chair's Items**

Cllr. Stuchbury mentioned the issue of traffic congestion on the Buckingham Industrial Estate.

**340/20 Date of the next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Meeting closed at 20.13pm

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chair