

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 14th July 2014** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. H. Cadd
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi - Chairman
Cllr. Ms. Newell
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury - Vice Chairman
Also attending Mrs. A. Brubaker Events Co-ordinator
Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. K. McElligott *for the Committee Clerk*

168/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. L. O'Donoghue - Town Mayor – and Cllr. H. Mordue.

169/14 Declarations of Interest

None.

170/14 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 19th May 2014 ratified at Full Council on 30th June 2014. (TCE/01/14) were received and accepted.

171/14 Action List

171.1 Memory Book: the foreword had been completed and the book was with the printers.

171.2 Pancake Race: Cllr. Bloomfield had met with Buckingham Athletic with a view to using Stratford Fields as an alternative site. The drawback was that the field could be in an unsuitable condition so far into the season.

171.3 Accessibility: Cllr. Strain-Clark reported a comment from the Comedy Night that there should be liaison over access, perhaps a mobile number to call for the door to be unlocked. Cllr. Smith suggested that a bell-push could be fitted.

Cllr. Strain-Clark also reported that she was surveying the dropped kerbs around the town in advance of the event in October.

171.4 Free Parking signs: the letter was drafted and awaiting the Town Clerk's signature.

171.5 Economic Improvement Project: the signage survey addresses this to some extent (with funding from English Heritage). Members discussed funding other projects, such as repainting the bollards and chains outside the Old Gaol – permission had been sought from AVDC who had responded with the standards expected which Members considered over-rigorous. There was some debate about which budget was to be used and which Committee was responsible; the Events Co-ordinator would check. It was decided that a letter be sent to Ms. Aldworth asking for the work to be done; if AVDC would not do it, offering to have the work

done by the Community Service team; setting a deadline for response pointing out the budget would be lost if not used, and not available again.

ACTION: EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

172/14 Markets

Members noted the report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

173/14 Budgets

Noted.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the adequacy of budgets be reviewed at the September or October meeting, with a view to adjustment as necessary before making the Precept request.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER AGENDA

174/14 Forthcoming Events

To confirm ownership and attendance and receive any updates on

174.1	BandJam	24 th August
174.2	River Rinse	14 th September & 5 th October
174.3	Charter Fair	18 th & 25 th October
174.4	Comedy Night	19 th October
174.5	Bonfire & Fireworks	1 st November
174.6	Remembrance Sunday	9 th November
174.7	Christmas Lights & Carols	29 th November
174.8	Christmas Parade and Community Fair	13 th December

The availability spreadsheet was unchanged. A list of meetings held (similar to the Mayor's list of events attended) was mooted, but rejected as all important meetings were minuted and reported to the next Committee meeting.

175/14 Event Reviews

The Events Co-ordinator's had reported as follows:

175.1 (56.1/14) Music in the Market (May 25th)

The following Recommendations were **AGREED**.

- that we continue to hire the SIA stewards for the event as their presence is very helpful and they have the powers and experience to deal with situations that we cannot.

- that we continue to work closely with the pubs, Tesco Express and West One Local as well as the off licenses to cut down on the amount of glass during Music In The Market and Bandjam.

175.2 (56.2/14) Buckingham Fringe week (June 14th – 22nd)

Mr. Templeman felt that playing in the Villiers restaurant was not reaching the people whose priority was the music rather than the cream tea. He suggested an alternative venue might be better, with refreshments available as a secondary aspect. Members considered outside the Old Gaol, and organising someone to provide tea etc. from the courtyard might work.

The Ghost Story event in the opposite venue of the Old Gaol had been attended by 30 people.

The Woolpack, having asked to be part of the Fringe and offered to host a karaoke night, failed to notify the office that they had been unable to locate a karaoke machine and decided to hold a beer festival with live music instead. Cllr. Harvey and a number of people who had seen the event advertised in the Fringe brochure were disappointed when they turned up and found it cancelled.

The 1940s Dance had proved very popular, and many attendees had dressed appropriately. The Events Co-ordinator thanked everyone who had helped dress the room with bunting and clear up afterwards.

175.3 (56.3/14) Dog Awareness Event (verbal report) (6th July)

The Mayor had also contributed a written report (agenda 9.3). The event had been publicised on Facebook and had been seen by an unprecedented (for a BTC event) 2600 and 'shared' by 50 people. It had proved very popular and many of those who attended had asked for another such event. Members praised the contribution of Youth Cllr. Rory Butcher. The Red Arrows had inadvertently contributed to the entertainment.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that the mild evening which followed the event and pleasant surroundings with the gazebos etc. already installed had suggested to him that a follow-on event – perhaps a concert with the audience bringing rugs and a picnic – could have been organised. A cut-and-collect mowing of the paddock would be necessary, and also Members pointed out that the earlier presence of a large number of dogs might not be appealing.

175.4 Buckingham in Bloom (verbal report)

The judging had been carried out and Mr. Wilkins of Meadow Gardens had won for the third year in a row; Paynes Court had won the Community Garden with Options second. Members discussed how to expand the number of entries, Cllr. Bloomfield suggesting that 'Community Garden' allow entries for hanging baskets. The condition that the garden should be visible from the public domain proved a problem for areas such as Brooks Court, although this could be viewed from Chris Nicholls Walk. Councillors could each undertake to select a well-presented garden and encourage the owner to enter.

The weather this year had meant that flowers had gone over sooner than expected and it was suggested that perhaps judging should be earlier in future years.

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

176/14 Youth Project

176.1 (63.2/14) Report on the Skate Park event from Cllr O'Donoghue
Noted.

176.2 Local Democracy Week event

The report on this from Cllr. O'Donoghue was postponed to the next meeting.

176.3 Report from Cllr. O'Donoghue on the Dog Event (6th July)

Amalgamated with that of the Events Co-ordinator (Min. 175.3).

177/14 Multi-Agency meeting

The report on the meeting held on 2nd July was noted; Cllr. Smith added that the archery had been cancelled. He then explained that TVP had funded the tag rugby last year, but their budget was for the whole area and he was hoping to negotiate for some of it. Members agreed support funding of £1140 (301/4094) for the basketball project and hire of inflatables but hoped Cllr. Smith was successful.

ACTION CLLR. SMITH

178/14 Visitor Information Centre

The visitor and accommodation statistics for May & June had been circulated with the agenda. Members agreed that once AVDC figures had been obtained from Mr. Black for Aylesbury and the rest of the Vale, comparisons should be made and a press release drawn up.

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

179/14 Hanging Baskets and Planters

The Events Co-ordinator reported that Mr. Bryant was doing the weekend watering with Town Council staff the weekdays. She would be going out later in the season to arrange the three-year contract with Preston Bissett Nurseries.

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

180/14 River Rinse

To receive for information the cost of the skip for 2014, and an update on the areas to be cleaned.

AVDC had agreed to sponsor one skip as the area to be cleared was adjacent to their land. The September Rinse would be from the silver bridge (Stratford Fields) to the skatepark, the October from the skatepark to Chandos Park. Letters would be sent seeking support from the Cadets, the University and the Fire Service.

Members suggested that the riparian owners be contacted to ask them to clear their own sections of river.

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

181/14 St. George flags

To discuss and agree the purchase of additional flags to replace worn and damaged stock for 2015.

Members debated whether other flags should be included, and whether the decision should be delayed until after the Scottish Referendum. There is no identified budget for flags, and Cllr. Smith said that Destination Buckingham might be able to make a small contribution.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **RECOMMENDED** to the Council that costs for replacement flags of St George and new Union and EU flags be found together with the number required and submitted to the Council for sourcing a budget.

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

182/14 1914-18 Centenary

“Lights Out”, initiated by DCMS, is an invitation to everyone in the UK to turn their lights off between 10pm and 11pm on 4th August, and to meet at the War Memorial for a candle-lit gathering.

Members felt that the town should participate in both sections of the event. Cllr Stuchbury proposed, and Members agreed, that the Chairman should lead on this and publicise it so that residents were aware and could co-operate.

A suggestion that the steeple lighting on the Church should also be turned off for the hour was judged too difficult with the system installed.

ACTION THE CHAIRMAN

183/14 Twinning

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2014 were noted.

184//14 Correspondence

None had been received since the agenda was circulated.

185/14 News releases agreed

185.1 Tourist figures (Min. 178/14)

185.2 “Lights Out” (Min. 182/14).

186/14 Chairman’s Items

None.

187/14 Date of the next meeting: Monday 1st September 2014

Meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Signed Date

Chairman