

TCE/07/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.00pm at 7pm online via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. Mrs. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	Chair
Cllr. M. Try	

Also attending:

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

A two minutes silence was held to mark the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April 2021.

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session.

1201/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. T. Bloomfield and received apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor W. Whyte.

1202/20 Declarations of Interest

None.

1203/20 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 received at Full Council on the 15th March 2021.

1204/20 Action List

Members received the updated Action List and the following items were discussed: Skate Park Consultation (875/20) – scheduled to begin work in May 2021 and asked for delay until after the summer holiday. The Town Clerk had received a response which confirmed that the delivery of the scheme will go ahead as planned during the summer. Members expressed disappointment that Buckinghamshire Council had not adopted a term time date for the demolition and building work when building their initial project plan. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write to Buckinghamshire Council on the following points:

- Members were pleased that work to redevelop the Bridge Street Skate Park was finally underway.

- Councillors asked for assurances that the skate park will not be fenced off until it was guaranteed that construction would take place and what safety arrangements were in place for the Children's Play area adjacent to the construction site?

Twinning (887/20) – Members **AGREED** for Cllr. Strain-Clark to be kept updated with any progress on the formal twinning arrangements with Neukirchen-Vluyn.

Councillors recorded their thanks to Cllr. Terry Bloomfield, current Vice-Chairman and former Chairman of Town Centre & Events Committee. Cllr. Stuchbury paid tribute to the contributions and hard work of Cllr. Bloomfield who was not standing for re-election after more than eleven years on the Town Council.

AGREED for the Committee to issue a formal letter of thanks from the Town Clerk to Cllr. Bloomfield. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

1205/20 Covid update

Members received a brief update from the Town Clerk and noted the reopening of the Tourist Information Centre, Shopmobility on Saturdays, The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre to allowed hirers and town centre shops.

Members **AGREED** for a short press release on the reopening of the Tourist Information Centre and the summer programme of events. **ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

1206/20 Budget

Members received the latest budget figures.

Fairtrade Budget – this budget line, along with other long-term grant recipients, will move to Community Grants within the 2022/23 budget.

Town in Bloom – Members discussed retitling the budget line to “Town in Bloomfield or Town in Bloom/Bloomfield”. Cllr. Mahi suggested the creation of a ‘Cllr. Bloomfield trophy’ to be awarded at the annual Buckingham in Bloom competition. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to investigate options and to bring a report back to a future committee.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

1207/20 Celebrate Buckingham Fundraising Fair

The Events Coordinator reported that the Celebrate Buckingham Community Volunteer Fair will be taking place in the paddock in Bourton Park on Saturday 10th July 2021 from 11am – 3pm, in Partnership with the Buckingham Society. Those who have signed up so far are the Air Cadets, Army Cadets, Canal Society, BORG (Buckingham Off Road Group), and the Buckingham & District Angling Association. A bouncy castle and bungee run have been booked as well as portable toilets (including Accessible toilets) and first aid. A small stage is currently being sourced and musical entertainment booked. Food vendors and an ice cream van are also being booked.

Members asked the Events Coordinator to contact local schools to see if any of the schools wished to contribute towards to event. **ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

Members **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to present the Council's awards that would normally be made at Mayor making during the Celebrate Buckingham event for 2021 because it will not be able to hold Mayor making in the usual way again this year.

1208/20 Fringe Week

Members received a written report from the Events Coordinator, noting that The Fringe Sub-Committee met earlier this year and agreed the theme for this year's Fringe Week as 'Fun Outdoors'. The following events were **AGREED** for July 2021:

- Sat 17th – Sun 25th Colouring Competition organised by Gilroy Steel, Solicitors
- Saturday 17th Launch of the Otter Trail
- Sunday 18th Family Fun Day Lace Hill
- Monday 19th Historic Pub Walk, Jean Summers
- Tuesday 20th Oxford Fiddle Group
- Wednesday 21st Online Quiz Night, Mikey Dyson
- Thursday 22nd UK Astronomy Night
- Friday 23rd Event to be confirmed
- Saturday 24th Music in the Market TBC
- Sunday 25th Wellbeing Walk

Members acknowledged that Saturday market entertainment is being sought for both the 17th and 24th July. The events listed below were going to be part of the Fringe Week but have had to be re-scheduled to a date outside of the Fringe Week 2021.

- Skate Park Awareness Day – due to the skate park being refurbished during the summer, this event is postpone until the site is ready for use again.
- The Children's Theatre - has been re-scheduled for Monday 16th August, as the original date in July 2021 was still within term-time.
- Music in the Market – The Council were unable to use the Buckingham Athletic Sports and Social Club, as they will be preparing for the start of the football season. Finding a suitable venue was proving difficult and it was not possible to use the parks as there was not sufficient toilet facilities or access to electrics. Enquiries are being made with the Rugby Club and Buckingham University to see if they could accommodate the event.

Cllr. Harvey suggested a karaoke night at one of the local pubs for Friday 23rd July 2021 and Councillors discussed the potential of a karaoke pub crawl around town centre public houses.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Gateley and unanimously **AGREED** to invite local acts, poetry, musicians and signers to perform at the town centre's busking area and within local pubs on the evening of Friday 23rd July 2021. Members **AGREED** for the Events Coordinator to incorporate 'Busking Friday' into the programme of events and report back with more information to the next meeting of TC&E Committee.

ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

1209/20 Good Endings Fair

Members received a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk and unanimously **AGREED** the report recommendation that the Good Endings Fair and Death café be postponed until March 2022.

1210/20 Bounce Back Events

Members received and discussed a written report from the Events Coordinator, noting that the Council has set aside an ear-marked reserve of £10,000 for Bounce Back events. The budget was created to enable the Council to help residents and businesses begin to return to normal (or establish the new normal) with some positive events and activities during 2021. A set of proposed activities were reported:

- Otter Trail - a trail of fibreglass otters is going to be placed throughout the town and parks. The trail will be launched at the beginning of the Fringe Week (17th July 2021) and remain throughout the summer.
- Saturday Entertainment in the Market - Weekly entertainment such as live music and street performers are being arranged from July to the end of August. A different act is being booked for each Saturday, to perform at the markets. This will add to the atmosphere of the Saturday markets, as well as making it clear to passers-by that the markets are fully open. It will provide an additional draw for people to visit the town centre, which will increase footfall to the benefit of all town centre businesses. The acts booked will be as varied as possible, to appeal to the widest audience. Members spoke positively about the proposal and asked for a diverse representation of local acts from across the local community.

ACTION TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

- Youth Programme - Action 4 Youth have been approached to see if they would be able to provide activities for youth throughout the summer holidays. In 2020 activities were restricted to 15 people; it is hoped that the restrictions will allow for more attendees this year.

Members **AGREED** a press release on Buskers Friday and the Saturday Entertainment

ACTION TOWN CENTRE MANAGER and EVENTS COORDINATOR

1211/20 Christmas Lights

Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Events Coordinator. The subcommittee met a few weeks ago and considered a few alternative designs for new Christmas Lights and will bring back a full report to the June 2021 meeting. The lampposts will be tested for structural integrity to ensure they can withstand the weight of the Christmas lights and festive banners.

1212/20 Forthcoming Events

- Saturday 10th July – Celebrate Buckingham Community Group Fund Raising Day
- Saturday 17th July – Sunday 25th July Fringe Week
- Monday 26th July - Play Around the Parishes
- Monday 9th & 23rd August - Play Around the Parishes

Members **AGREED** for the Events Coordinator to liaise with the Bard of Buckingham on the potential of coordinating dates with any University events including the Annual Duck Race.

ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

- Friday 13th – Sunday 15th - Circus
This is something that was arranged for the summer of 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic restrictions. However, the Circus group are now touring again and arrangements will be put in place to ensure that activities comply with all aspects of the Covid regulations that are in place at the time. Members **AGREED** to progress arrangements for the event.
- Monday 16th August - Open Air Theatre, Alice in Wonderland
- Sunday 29th August – Bandjam
The Events Coordinator is to progress arrangements with event organiser, Lee Maloney from May 2021.
- Sunday 12th September - Dog Show
The Dog Show will take place as usual on the paddock in Bourton Park and it is hoped that the success of last year’s online Dog Show will inspire more residents, and their dogs, to get involved.

1213/20 Event Reviews

- 1213.1/20 Pancake Event – The social media campaign was complimented for its originality.
- 1213.2/20 Commonwealth Day – Members acknowledged the annual raising of the flag.
- 1213.3/20 Day of Reflection – Councillors took note of the first national day of reflection to commemorate the impact of Covid 19, and thanked the office for organising yellow ribbons for the Cattle Pen railings.
- 1213.4/20 Bunny Hunt – Members noted the success of the children’s online Bunny Hunt around Chandos and Bourton Park.

1214/20 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

Members received and discussed the updated plan.
Litter Picking Event – Members discussed arranging a Councillor led litter picking event after the May elections and after Bandjam in August **AGREED**
Communication Campaigns – Members **AGREED** for the Committee Clerk to circulate the number of visitors to the Council webpage on the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

1215/20 Access

Members thanked Cllr. Strain-Clark for her hard work to ensure Buckingham was a more accessible place.
Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury seconded by Cllr. O’Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to bring forward a report, in consultation with Access4All, of potential ideas for the AccessAble budget.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

1216/20 Twinning

There were no further updates.

1217/20 News Releases

Members **AGREED** for a short press release on the reopening of the Tourist Information Centre and roll out of Summer events.

ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

1218/20 Chair's Items

The Chair thanked all committee members for their work over the last year, especially during the challenges of Covid-19.

1219/20 Date of the next meeting: Monday 21st June 2021

Meeting closed at 20.31pm

Signed

Date