

TCE/02/23

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 24th July 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

Present: Cllr. F. Davies Vice Chair
Cllr. M Gateley
Cllr. J Harvey
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. R. Stuchbury Chair
Cllr. R. Willett

Also attending: Ms. L. Stubbs Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. A. Brubaker Events Co-ordinator
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

Absent: Cllr. Ahmed
Cllr. Mahi
Cllr. Schaefer

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

170/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Mahi and Cllr. Schaefer.

171/23 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

172/23 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 5th June 2023.

173/23 Budget

Members received, discussed, and noted the latest budget figures.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified an income line query from the last meeting: the Swan Trail was on last year's budget.

Cllr. Harvey noted that there is a skate park budget available. Is it possible that we could organise a trip for young people to another skate park? Members agreed that this is a nice idea but may be difficult to organise; a possible skate park related event will be added to the next agenda for further discussion. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that there is no staffing capacity to run anything in the second half of the year and that weather can be problematic.

Members agreed to discuss the Accessibility budget at the next meeting.

174/23 Local Democracy Week

Members received a report from the Events Coordinator.
It is recommended that the date and time of the Local Democracy event is changed to Tuesday 10th October from 11am – 1pm.
The Events Coordinator explained that this recommendation was the result of a recent meeting where both schools requested that the event is extended to two hours.
Cllr. O’Donoghue asked that the role of the lead councillor is discussed at the next meeting.
Members **AGREED**.
Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

175/23 Band Jam: Big Bash

Members received a report from the Events Coordinator.
It is recommended that members note the information about changes to the staging and the visit of the National Chopper Club to BandJam in 2023.
The Events Coordinator explained the changes this year, including going back to a stage on the back of a lorry, merchandise, food vendors, children’s activities outside the Old Gaol, and possibly a wristband discount scheme. The National Chopper Club are also stopping for lunch in Buckingham from 1pm to 4pm and will be visiting local pubs and restaurants.
Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

176/23 Event reviews

176/23.1 Celebrate Buckingham Day
It is recommended that members note this report and the budget.
Members unanimously **AGREED**.

It is recommended that we consider merging Celebrate Buckingham Day with the Spring Green Fair to create one big community event, as there is considerable overlap in the attendees for both events.
Members discussed:
Accessibility is not as good in the paddock, where Celebrate Buckingham Day is held.
The possible number of stallholders that could attend in the paddock area.
The Spring Green Fair and Celebrate Buckingham Day are different events with a different focus.
Members **AGREED** an amendment to the recommendation: that a report is brought to the next meeting to look in more details at both events.
Members thanked the lead officers for the successful events.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

176/23.2 Swan Trail

A lot of completed maps have been received, showing that people are completing the Trail. It is going very well and ongoing publicity throughout the summer will take place. The sponsors are happy, and the artwork is very impressive. Members discussed the possibility of using the artwork for merchandise, for example postcards and calendars. The Deputy Town Clerk will talk to the Town Centre Manager who may already have plans/ideas.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

- 176/23.3 Fringe Week: Jumble Sale
A very successful sale with £308.05 raised for the Salvation Army and the Mayor's charities. Many local people benefitted from the sale. Members **AGREED** to write to the Salvation Army thanking them for their help and the use of their hall and to invite them to let us know any ideas that they may have where we could work together. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**
- 176/23.4 Fringe Week: Market Entertainment
A group from the Buckingham Panto did a couple of sketches but due to the awful weather, the entertainment had to be abandoned. They are happy to come back next year. Members **AGREED** to write and thank them. **ACTION TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**
- 176/23.5 Fringe Week: Family Fun Day
Some of the equipment was moved inside due to early rain but this worked well. £154 was raised for the Mayor's charities. Members thanked officers for their work in making this a successful event.
- 176/23.6 Fringe Week: Buckingham Play Days
Children enjoyed the activities. The weather was poor at the start but there was a good sunny interval where lots of children enjoyed the activities. The Equality, Community Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group had a successful information and biscuit decorating stall. The Pauline Quirke Arts Academy also attended and made newspaper figures. Members **AGREED** a press release, to include Buckingham Town Council's ownership of the event. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

177/23 Calendar of forthcoming events

Members noted the current calendar of events.

The Events Coordinator will email Councillors to ask about availability for the judging of Garden On A Plate. **ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

Members thanked officers for the excellent Fringe Week leaflet and **AGREED** a press release at the end of Fringe Week.

178/23 Motion: Cllr. Davies

The option to hold a street food fair in the next financial year be explored and a report brought to a future meeting in time to be precepted for if agreed.
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Cllr. Davies has spoken to a company which organises street food fair events but recognises that this has not been budgeted for this year.

Members discussed:

The possibility of outsourcing, with no extra work for staff and self-financing.

The impact on the restaurants in town – would they lose trade?

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that a report be brought to the November meeting. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

179/23 Buckingham in Bloom

Members received a verbal update from the Events Coordinator.

The cut-off date was last Friday and there is just one entry, possibly due to the poor weather. Members **AGREED** that the prize is awarded to the entrant and that this is discussed at a future meeting.

ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

180/23 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members received and noted updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

181/23 Motion: Cllr. Harvey.

That this Committee recommends the below to Full Council:

In line with our environmental policy to reduce plastic waste and single use plastic wherever possible, this Council *seeks to work with the local British Legion (in line with the emerging national practice)* and all those who regularly lay (plastic) wreaths on the war memorial on Armistice Sunday, to explore options to use non-plastic alternatives this coming year. The Town Council will review what options are found by local organisations with an intention to steadily seek to reduce the use of plastic in forthcoming years to zero. This coming November, the Town Mayor will lay a memorial wreath constructed of less than 10% plastic in order to lead the way forward *but will donate to the Royal British Legion the cost of a wreath.*

Members discussed supporting the Royal British Legion in their desire to reduce their use of single use plastic. Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Gateley suggested amendments to the Motion (*in italics*).

A vote was taken on the substantive motion with amendments, and the result was:

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

The Motion was carried with amendments.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

182/23 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

Members received verbal updates from Councillors.

Cllr. Stuchbury put forward a motion to request involvement in drafting the Buckinghamshire Plan. This was unsuccessful.

183/23 Action list

Members received action reports and updates.

761/22 Partner events contracts wording to be changed as contracts are not attached.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Youth Council café - the Deputy Town Clerk will chase Buckinghamshire Council for an update.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

184/23 Access

A press release on town centre access has been submitted.

185/23 News releases

Buckingham Play Days

Fringe Week

186/23 Chair's items

No items.

187/23 Date of the next meeting: Monday 25th September 2023

Meeting closed at 21:21

Signed Date