

TCE/03/25

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 29th September 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

Present:	Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
	Cllr. L. Draper	
	Cllr. J Harvey	
	Cllr. A. Mahi	Vice Chair
	Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
	Cllr. R. Poppe	
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	Chair
Also attending:	Ms. Z. Taylor	Deputy Town Clerk
	Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
	Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
	Cllr. H. Mordue	
	Cllr. M. Try	
Absent:	Cllr. R. Ahmed	
	Cllr. T. Allen	

Public session

Cllr. H. Mordue thanked the Town Centre and Events Committee and Buckingham Town Council for their sponsorship of the Christmas Parade. This enables the Parade Committee to sponsor the best dressed window competition in the town. Cllr. H. Mordue, on behalf of one or two market traders, asked if some traders could trade outside the Chamber whilst the Charter Fair is in town. The Town Clerk explained that, due to safety concerns, this Committee voted against it. Paperwork for this year's Charter Fair has already been submitted, and market traders have been informed that trading cannot take place on 18th and 25th October 2025.

The Chair suggested that details of the decision, to end market trading during the Charter Fair Saturdays, are circulated to Members; he will inform Cllr. H. Mordue of the details in writing.

ACTION TOWN CLERK
ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY

Cllr. H. Mordue left the meeting at 7:06pm.

277/25 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Ahmed and Cllr. Allen.

278/25 Declarations of interest

There were none.

The Mayor, on behalf of Buckingham Town Council, congratulated the Red Roses on triumphantly winning the Rugby World Cup.

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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial.....

279/25 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 21st July 2025.

280/25 Budget

Members received and noted the latest budget figures.

Cllr. Mahi Proposed a regular market agenda item. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. The Town Clerk clarified that Committees cannot decide what is included on the agenda; this is the remit of the Town Clerk. Cllr. Mahi withdrew his Proposal.

281/25 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr. Draper attended the Youth Centre ATM. This was a very positive meeting reporting support from Buckinghamshire Council to renew the flooring, increased attendance and successful fundraising and hiring of the venue.

282/25 New route for Buxplore app

Members considered the request to add a Great Fire of Buckingham route to the app.

Cllr. Draper Proposed we accept the request, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

283/25 Youth Council Update

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to conduct a scientific and independent youth survey to establish what the young people of the town want, and if a youth council has significant enough support amongst young people to justify the substantial investment required.

The Town Clerk anticipates that a Town Council Officer will conduct this survey.

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked Cllr. O'Donoghue for her work.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation. **ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

284/25 Forthcoming events

284/25.1 Christmas Lights Switch On – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note this report.

Cllr. Davies thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her work and Proposed that we accept the recommendation. Seconded by Cllr. Draper and unanimously **AGREED.**

284/25.2 Small Business Saturday – Members received a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

1.1. Members are asked to note that meetings with businesses have been organised to plan this year's Small Business Saturday and to increase networking opportunities. Activities will be funded from Budget 303/4283.

A Meeting was held with ten business owners in the town to improve engagement. The Business and Community Engagement Officer is looking at the feasibility of their ideas; a report will be included on the next agenda.

Cllr. Davies thanked the Business and Community Engagement Officer for her work and Proposed accepting the recommendation. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

284/25.3 Remembrance Sunday – Members received a verbal report. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that meetings have been held with the Royal British Legion, and the screen has been organised.

Cllr. Harvey requested an update on the single use plastic wreaths. The Town Clerk confirmed that we will continue to work with the Royal British Legion, as per an agreed amended motion, as they explore more sustainable options.

Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her work.

284/25.4 Charter Fair – Members received a verbal report. The Deputy Town Clerk met with the Showman who understands the potential issues with scaffolding and ANPR restrictions. She informed Members that Furze Down Sixth Form had helped to distribute letters to local businesses this year.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to write and thank Furze Down Sixth Form for their assistance.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

284/25.5 Local Democracy Event – Members received and noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

Cllr. Draper Proposed that we should also invite Furze Down Sixth Form in future years. Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

285/25 Calendar of events

Members received the current calendar of events.

Members noted a number of typos/amendments required:
Christmas Parade
Pancake Races – Tuesday
King's official birthday to be removed.
Commonwealth

Cllr. Stuchbury noted that an events press release was agreed and has not yet been completed. The Deputy Town Clerk will check this. **ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

286/25 Proposal from Mr. Lionel Weston

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to keep the Celebrate Buckingham event in-house but request further information from Mr Weston on the detail of his proposed stand-alone event in support of Cancer Research UK.

Cllr. Davies Proposed that we agree the recommendation. She feels, for safety reasons, cars parking in the dog walking field cannot be sanctioned. Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Harvey suggested that Embleton Way or Lace Hill could be considered for this event – both have more facilities.

287/25 Proposed calendar of events 2026-2027

Members received the proposed calendar of events for 2026-2027.

The Town Clerk asked Members to consider a date for Bonfire and Fireworks in 2026. Due to staffing for the Remembrance Parade road closure early the next day, the 7th of November is impractical.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that Bonfire and Fireworks takes place on Halloween, 31st October 2026. Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.**

Cllr. Davies noted that the Skate Park Event is not usually on a Sunday. The Town Clerk thinks that this is an error, and it will be checked. **ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR**

288/25 Event reviews

288/25.1 Fringe Week – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report.
- 1.2. It is recommended that Members agree to participate in Fringe Week in 2026.

The Deputy Town Clerk summarised the successful week.

Cllr. Davies noted that attendance at the Family Fun Day was impacted by a number of other events. This event will be reviewed to ensure that it is also beneficial to traders.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that Fringe Week has a theme. Historically this has been the case. Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.
ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

Members thanked Cllr. Davies, the previous Town Centre and External Services Manager and the Deputy Town Clerk for organising the highly successful Street Food Fair in collaboration with Bite Club.

Members **AGREED** the recommendations.

288/25.2 Skate Park – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to book Team Rubicon for the 2026 event.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed that additional companies should be approached for a quote. Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members **AGREED**. There was one abstention.
ACTION EVENTS COORDINATOR

Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. O'Donoghue and Cllr. Harvey for their work.

288/25.3 Bandjam – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1. It is recommended that Members note this report.

1.2. It is recommended that Members consider researching an alternative venue for 2026 BandJam.

The Deputy Town Clerk asked Members to consider how safe the event is in its current town centre location and that the event should be compliant with the principles of Martyn's Law. She clarified that, due to the loss of the collaborator, and subsequent last minute changes, costs were increased.

Cllr. Draper Proposed Option 6.1: the venue for BandJam remains the same, acknowledging that not all risks can be managed effectively.

Cllr. Davies noted the safety issues at the time of the event, including the lack of facilities, and feels that we should look at holding this event somewhere else.

Cllr. Poppe asked if a larger road closure could be considered.

Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded Cllr. Draper's Proposal.

Cllr. Harvey suggested that we might consider moving the stage and encouraging attendees not to bring glass in order to mitigate some of the problems with the location. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that a tree causes an obstruction and limits where the stage may be placed.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the cost of extending the road closure would be high; it would need to be fully staffed from 7am to midnight. A blue route for emergency services must be maintained.

Members **AGREED** Option 6.1. There was one abstention.

288/25.4 Dog Show – Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

The Deputy Town Clerk summarised the very successful event and Cllr. O'Donoghue thanked officers, former Councillor Mr. Bloomfield and Cllr. Harvey for their work. Cllr. Stuchbury thanked Cllr. Try for his excellent contribution as compere.

288/25.5 Artwork Unveiling – Members received and noted a report from the Events Coordinator. The Chair thanked everyone who contributed.

289/25 Action list

Members received action reports and updates.

Cllr. Harvey left the meeting at 8:55pm.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the free parking days press release will go out this week. Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the Mayor gives the quote for this. Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

290/25 Best Kept Village 2025

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

1.1. It is recommended that Members approve Buckingham's continued participation in the Best Kept Village Competition in 2026.

Cllr. Harvey returned to the meeting at 8:59pm.

Cllr. Davies thanked the Green Spaces Team and the Estates Administrator for their work, and the Chair thanked the Green Spaces Team for keeping the planters and baskets looking so wonderful.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

291/25 Buckingham in Bloom

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report and consider recommendations for next year's competition.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

Cllr. Davies Proposed that, if a garden looks lovely, Councillors could put a slip though their door to encourage them to enter. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Cllr. Try left the meeting at 9:04pm.

292/25 Bite Club

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members consider the proposal put forward by Bite Club and agree to explore and budget for 2-3 dates for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Members were positive about additional dates but asked if Lace Hill could be considered, perhaps as an alternate venue.

Cllr. Try returned to the meeting at 9:08pm.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the recommendation relates to budget only. Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

293/25 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members noted that there are no Town Centre and Events Committee updates to the plan.

294/25 News releases

Events – past and present.

Free parking days.

295/25 Chair's announcements – for information only

No announcements.

296/25 Date of the next meeting: Monday 17th November 2025

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION
Exclusion of public and press

RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

297/25 Confidential update

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk.

Meeting closed at 9:33pm

Signed Date