

TCE/04/25

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 17th November 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

Present: Cllr. R. Ahmed
 Cllr. T. Allen
 Cllr. F. Davies Town Mayor
 Cllr. L. Draper
 Cllr. J Harvey
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. R. Poppe
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury Chair

Also attending: Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk
 Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

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

383/25 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

384/25 Declarations of interest

There were none.

385/25 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 29th September 2025.

386/25 Budget

386/25.1 Members received and noted the latest budget figures.

Cllr. Harvey queried the Twinning expenditure; he noted that there was an agreement with the Twinning Society that there would be no cost to the Town Council. The Town Clerk explained that there is an EMR for Twinning and this was used to hire a stage at Celebrate Buckingham Day.

386/25.2 Members received the draft budget for 2026-27.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that this is the first reading of the budget; it will be taken to Resources and Full Council. She asked Members to note that National Insurance, pensions and salaries are all holding figures at this point. The overall budget to budget precept percentage increase is 4.59%. There is an issue with the Christmas icicle lights which will need to be replaced; we are still waiting for a full quote so this figure may come down slightly. The notes next to the budget line explain the changes.

Cllr. Harvey again queried the Twinning budget. The Town Clerk explained that there is a small contingency budget of £100.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for her work.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the draft budget for 2026-2027.

387/25 Markets Fees and Rules

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree to add £1 to the price of a flea market pitch and a street market pitch as per the table in item 3.

The Town Clerk explained that the Market Manager feels that gazebo hire should be frozen at £4; this will encourage continuity of the flea market throughout the year. Cllr. Draper Proposed that we agree the recommendation and also freeze gazebo hire rates. Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the unchanged market rules and regulations.

388/25 Stall fees

Members received a report from the Finance Officer.

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree to hold the cost of events stall fees for 2026/2027.

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

389/25 PSPOs

Members noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Member.

The Mayor has written to Cllr. Bowles to ask when the signs will be removed.

Members thanked Cllr. Davies and officers for their work to remove the PSPO.

390/25 Local business engagement

Members received a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer and noted the update.

Cllr. Davies noted that 2.6 of the report should read Women's Rugby World Cup.

ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

391/25 Policies

Members reviewed and agreed the unchanged Carers Tickets policy.

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

392/25 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

There were no updates.

393/25 Forthcoming events

393/25.1 Local Democracy Week – Members received and noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

393/25.2 Christmas Lights Switch On – Members noted the date and offered assistance for the event.

393/25.3 Small Business Saturday – Members received a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

1.1 It is recommended that members agree to support the proposed plans for Small Business Saturday.

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

393/25.4 Christmas Parade – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.

Cllr. Draper asked if the Town Council receive a breakdown of funds spent from the Parade Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that it does.

Cllr. Mahi Proposed, Cllr. Allen Seconded and Member unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

393/25.5 Community Fair – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Member unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

393/25.6 Holocaust Memorial Day – Members received and noted a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Members discussed possible amendments to paragraph 2.1. The Town Clerk explained that this is HMD wording, and the agenda item is specifically for Holocaust Memorial Day.

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

394/25 Calendar of events

Members noted the current calendar of events and the Pancake Races date error: the event will take place on Thursday, 19th February 2026.

395/25 Event reviews

395/25.1 Lace Hill Winter Fair – Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk who confirmed that this was a successful event.

395/25.2 River Rinses – Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

1.1 Members are asked to note this report.

1.2 It is recommended that when the section of the river from the Flosch to Fishers Field is next included, it not be advertised to the general public. Instead, it should be completed as an operational matter solely by the Green Spaces Team and Stowe Sub Aqua Club.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

Cllr. Davies suggested that a separate litter picking could be organised, for example along Railway Walk.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we write to Stowe Sub Aqua Club, the Fire Service and the WI, thanking them for their contribution to the event. Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

395/25.3 Charter Fair – Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr. Allen thanked Town Council staff for their work to ensure that the Fair is brought in safely. The Chair Proposed that we write to Mr. Bloomfield to thank him for volunteering. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

395/25.4 Halloween Disco – Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that the Halloween Disco be replaced with a different event next year.

Cllr. Ahmed Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

395/25.5 Bonfire and Fireworks – Members received and noted 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 donate any underspend to the Air Cadets to thank them for their assistance marshalling the event.

1.3 It is recommended to thank J&L snacks who provided free food and drink for cadets, staff and volunteers.

Cllr. Draper informed Members that DJ Dan has been booked for next year.

Cllr. Mahi Proposed that we write and thank The Buckingham Table for their help in cleaning up after the event. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Members thanked all staff and volunteers for their work.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

395/25.6 Christmas Card Competition – Members received and noted a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

396/25 Action list

Members received action reports and updates.

397/25 News releases

Christmas Card competition.

ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

398/25 Chair's announcements – for information only

The Chair expressed concern about the leak in Verdetto Lounge.

399/25 Date of the next meeting: Monday 9th February 2026

The meeting closed at 8:13pm.

Signed Date