TCE/03/26

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP.

Present:	Cllr. R. Ahmed	Vice Chair
	Cllr. T. Allen	
	Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
	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. Z. Taylor	Deputy Town Clerk
	Ms. P. Cahill	Events Officer
	Mrs. A. Benoy	Committee Clerk
	Cllr. H Mordue	Christmas Parade Committee
	Mr Dave Barnes	Christmas Parade Committee
	Mr Andy Cooper	Christmas Parade Committee
	Mr Steven Pring	Christmas Parade Committee
	Mr Richard Feeley	Christmas Parade Committee
	Cllr. A. Osibogun	Christmas Parade Committee
Absent:	Cllr. L. Draper	

Public session
Members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair reminded Members why the extraordinary meeting was taking place, i.e., that the Town Council had received correspondence from the Buckingham Christmas Parade Committee advising that the Christmas Parade Committee had cancelled the Christmas Parade this year. He then invited representatives of the Christmas Parade Committee to speak in turn as per the list of requests received.

4 members of the Christmas Parade Committee spoke, drawing attention to the following:

- All members of the committee have served the town for a number of years in many different roles both past and present
- The Town Council has asked the Christmas Parade Committee to organise the Parade with all the associated accompanying accountability and they are unable to continue to carry this out
- The Parade Committee have always worked well with the Town Clerk
- The Town Council staff were thanked for their work on the day of the Parade
- The Parade Committee take out their own insurance

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.

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The Chair thanked the members of the Parade Committee for their contribution.

7.13. Mr Dave Barnes, Mr Andy Cooper, Cllr. Osibogun and Mr Richard Feeley left the chamber.

203/26 Apologies for Absence
There were none.

204/26 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

205/26 Christmas Events Programme
205/26.1 Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

It is recommended that Members:

1.1. To note the decision of the Parade Committee not to proceed with the 2026 Christmas Parade and to thank the Parade Committee and the volunteer marshals who have worked on the Parade over the past 40 years.

1.2. To agree that, as all Town Council staff already work at the Christmas Parade, there is no capacity to consider taking over the event at this stage.

1.3. To commit to spending the Christmas Parade budget on the Christmas events programme as detailed in Section 2 - Recommended Budget.

1.4. To agree to establish a town-wide consultation on the 2027 Christmas events programme. Alongside residents, the consultation will engage the town's businesses, to explore how the programme can better serve their needs. It will also canvas community groups, to establish what type of events they would most enjoy.

1.5. To establish a working group to explore all options and suggestions, and report back to this Committee in good time to plan the 2027 Christmas events programme.

Cllr. Mahi suggested holding a Christmas walking parade from Bourton Park to Waitrose/ Skate Park, meaning no vehicles are involved.

Cllr. Harvey asked the Town Clerk if a feasibility study be carried out and brought to another extraordinary TC&E meeting in a few weeks in advance of the next scheduled TC&E meeting in October as that would be too late to make any arrangements and bookings.

2. Recommended Budget

2.1. The budget for the 2026 parade is £6,344. Options for using this are being explored, but it is late in the year and many premium activities are

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already booked up. It is therefore recommended that the Town Clerk be tasked to spend approximately £3,000 this Christmas, on the following indicative basis:

- £1,000 on additional activities at the Christmas Lights Switch-On.
- £1,200 towards Small Business Saturday and associated Christmas business promotion.
- £800 on the Christmas Community Fair and other smaller Christmas activities.

2.2. This committee recommends to Full Council that any unspent funds (estimated to be around £3,344) be earmarked for Christmas next year and that there be no reductions to the 2027 Christmas events budget

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to accept recommendation 1.1

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** an amendment to the new wording of Recommendation 1.2 to read: To agree that, as all Town Council staff already work at the Christmas Parade, there is no capacity to consider taking over the *existing* event at this stage.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Recommendation 1.2.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** an amendment to the new wording of Recommendation 1.3 to read: To commit to spending the Christmas Parade budget on the Christmas events programme as detailed in Section 2 - Recommended Budget *unless a decision is taken in the light of 1.5 below*. **ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended wording in Recommendation 1.3.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to accept Recommendation 1.4

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** an amendment to the new wording of Recommendation 1.5 to read: To establish a working group to explore all options and suggestions, and report back to this Committee in good time to plan the 2027 Christmas events programme *and ask the Town Clerk to write a report to explore the options of a walking parade through the town and shire parks to be resolved at a soon to be convened extraordinary meeting*.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Recommendation 1.5.

Thanks were given to the office staff for everything they've done so far.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** their thanks to the Parade Committee for all their service over the past 40 years.

Meeting closed at 7.44pm

Signed …… Date ……

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