

**MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2007 AT 7.00pm**

**PRESENT**    Councillor    T. Bloomfield  
   H. Cadd  
   Mrs. P. Desorgher  
   P. Hirons  
   D. Isham  
   R. Newell    (Vice Chairman)  
   Mrs. P. Stevens

For the Town Clerk Mrs. K. McElligott

In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was taken by the Vice Chairman.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Mahi, H. Mordue (Mayor), M. Smith and R. Stuchbury (Chairman).

**423/2007    DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest at this point for items on the agenda. Cllr. Cadd later noted an interest in connection with the Royal British Legion and Remembrance Day.

**424/2007    TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members accepted the minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007, which were ratified at the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

**425/2007    ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES**

425.1 (406.1) Pancake Race  
No report, in the absence of Mr. Foster.

425.2 (406.2) Response from the Royal British Legion  
The RBL would be happy for Cllr. Mahi to attend meetings. A schedule would be requested.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

425.3 (406.3) Coach Parking  
Possible dates and attendees were awaited from AVDC; Cllr. Cadd would investigate progress.

**ACTION CLLR. CADD**

#### 423.4 (406.4) Signage

The Committee Clerk reported that Cllr. Mills was monitoring progress and keeping the Council informed: once permission for the siting was agreed, and Members' consent obtained, a licence would be drawn up by the Legal Department. Once this was signed quotations for installation could be sought.

#### 423.5 (406.5) Holocaust Memorial Day

Cllr. Newell reported that no information on the 2008 theme was yet available.

#### 423.6 (406.6) Environment Month

Cllr. Newell outlined the problem with the BTCV officer being on long-term sick leave leaving the town without planned wildlife events.

A part-time BTCV worker has been asked to cover the Buckingham area and is proposing a Sandpit Open Day at August Bank Holiday weekend (the Clerk reminded Cllr. Newell about the Band Jam event on the Sunday), and is drawing up a list of events for Railway Walk which will be submitted to the Environment & Property Committee. She is also in contact with the Friends of Maids Moreton Avenue & Holloway Spinney.

Cllr. Bloomfield asked if there was to be a Bat Walk this year. Cllr. Newell thought one might be suggested for later in the year.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

#### 423.7 (406.7) Remembrance Day

The Clerk would investigate the 'lollipop man' type of road closure observed at the recent Scout Anniversary Parade.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

#### 423.8 (412) Band Jam event

The Clerk reported Cllr. Stuchbury had this in hand. As PSL were committed elsewhere, Buckingham Deli would be providing the food stall, and there would be an Italian market in the Cattle Pens.

The Clerk would arrange publicity for the event.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

#### 423.9 (413) Report on a meeting between Bucks Fire & Rescue and BCC Highways re the placing of Charter Fair rides

Mr. O'Brien of Bucks. Fire & Rescue indicated that he had no problem with moving the dodgems away from the Town Hall roundabout. He required a fire-based risk assessment; a clear path 3.7m wide to allow access for emergency vehicles through the Fair; and indications of how rides restricting access can be dismantled quickly.

Mr. Dudley, BCC, would contact Nichols Brothers and obtain a layout of the Fair rides.

Cllr. Cadd advocated replacement of the 'dimple' roundabout outside the town Hall by a painted circle; the raised area was slippery in the wet and thus more dangerous than a level surface.

**ACTION THE CLERK, MR.DUDLEY**

#### 423.10 (393) Results of the Best Kept Village competition

Buckingham had been awarded Runner-up in the Michaelis Cup, losing to Marlow. The detailed judging sheet had arrived that day and Cllr. Newell read it to the

Committee. The judges had commented adversely on the skate park; Members pointed out that young people were encouraged to paint graffiti on the apparatus. However the signboard needed replacement. The Clerk would circulate the comment sheet.

## **ACTION THE CLERK**

### 423.11 To receive for information the new BCC policy on road closures

Details had been circulated with the agenda.

### 423.12 (417) Information on the cost of regional flags

Guide prices had been obtained: £40 - £45 to buy, or £17.50 to hire (per week) plus carriage and VAT. Cllr. Whyte had sent his comments against purchase.

The Clerk indicated that the Council flew the St. George flag on St. George's Day, and the Union flag on the Queen's birthday and Remembrance Day. The vandal-proofing of the ropework meant that the flagpole had to be felled to change flags and this currently depended on the availability of Cllr. Stuchbury and another person. Members advocated the purchase of suitable tools for the caretaker.

### 423.13 (302.3) Report on the use of the Garden Vouchers

Cllr. Newell had purchased lavender and fuschia for the Sorting Office planters, some hebes, not yet planted out, and a hanging basket for the office. The remaining vouchers were to be used for the Buckingham in Bloom prizes.

## **426/2007 HANGING BASKETS**

Members had been circulated with the correspondence with the supplier and comparative photos of last year's and this year's baskets. Photos supplied by the company of the removed baskets and the offered additional planters were also circulated at the meeting, and summary letter received that day was copied to each Member. The company had admitted not supplying the colours ordered, and this implied different species of plants.

It was felt that hanging baskets should be brightly coloured with large-flowered species to make a bold statement. The pastel colours chosen would have stood out against the brickwork which formed the background to most. Members felt that the baskets were inconspicuous in the street scene.

Members also queried the planting medium the company used and agreed that slow release fertilizer should have lasted at least until the heavy rains.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Hiron, and **AGREED** that the Council offer a payment of £1000 against the bill of £1872.95.

Members recommended that only local suppliers should be considered for next year's baskets; that a specification be drawn up in some detail for the next meeting to consider and tenders sought in the autumn on this specification.

## **SEPTEMBER AGENDA**

## **427/2007 (410) BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM**

### **427.1 Schools Competition**

The judges had decided as follows:

1. Grenville School (£75 garden vouchers & certificate)
2. Bourton Meadow School (certificate)
3. Field House Day Nursery (certificate)

### **427.2 Business Competition**

The judges had marked Buckingham Hospital and the Red Cross Day Centre joint first, followed by the Villiers Hotel.

The Committee felt that £50 vouchers split between the joint winners was too little for a first prize:

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** to increase the prize for the Business Competition to £60, giving £30 for each winner.

The Committee approved the Clerk's offer to base the certificate on a photograph of the entry; Cllr. Newell had some additional photos which she would email to the office.

**ACTION THE CLERK, CLLR. NEWELL**

## **428/2007 (408) THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM**

Cllr. Newell reported that she had accompanied the judges through the town on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, taking in the wildlife areas and circular walk and returning to the Council Chamber for refreshments and a look at the cuttings file and additional photos – e.g. spring flowers on the by-pass. The result was expected in September.

This year's entry had been free of charge, as the town was entered in a different category to last year, but an entry fee of c£100 needed to be considered in the precept request for 2008.

Cllr. Cadd thanked Cllr. Newell for all the work she had put in and for showing the judges round.

## **429/2007 CIRCULAR WALK**

Cllr. Smith had circulated a paper explaining why the formal opening of the Circular Walk on September 22<sup>nd</sup> should be a Town Council event. Members agreed.

A response from the Pipe Band was awaited.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

## **430/2007 (419) QUOTATIONS FOR PA SERVICES**

Quotations had been received from 3 of the 4 firms contacted and presented blind to the Committee with the agenda. The Clerk pointed out that Quote B did not carry their own personal liability cover and would be relying on the Council's.

Members nevertheless chose Quote B and asked that the Clerk verify that there was adequate insurance cover for each event.

### **431/2007 RIVER RINSE**

Members discussed the area of river most in need of clearing; Cllr. Stuchbury had left word he favoured from the by-pass to the weir at Bourton Mill.

It was decided to do from Stratford Fields towards the car park bridge at Cornwall's Meadow. The Clerk would contact the Grand Junction to see if they would accommodate the skip, as being slightly safer than using the emergency access road.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **432/2007 (390) 2008 TWINNING VISIT**

The visit is scheduled from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008, arriving late afternoon on the Thursday and departing after lunch on the Sunday.

The Community Centre was booked on the Saturday, but Friday and Sunday were available.

The Twinning Association would be contacted to see which date they preferred; both dates would be held until a decision was made.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **433/2007 (416) PLASTIC BAG-FREE TOWN**

Cllr. Newell was hoping to make Buckingham people cut down their use of plastic bags, as Modbury in Devon had recently. Members noted that some supermarkets charged for carrier bags, and that this had worked well in other countries, cutting down both the use of plastic bags and the amount of plastic litter. Re-usable cloth bags, preferably fairly small, could be promoted, and it was possible that further information was available from the Modbury website.

Councillors agreed to support Cllr. Newell in her endeavours.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

### **434/2007 LAUNCH OF FAIR-TRADE TOWN STATUS**

The final agreement on Buckingham being a Fair Trade Town was imminent; a celebration and promotion was planned for the Old Gaol courtyard on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Winslow Concert Band were booked to play outside the Old Gaol from 10 till 12. Cllr. Newell hoped as many Members as possible would attend.

### **435/2007 (409) REVIEW OF TEDDY BEARS PICNIC**

Tumblers in Bridge Street, who were arranging children's games and face-painting for the picnic, had offered use of their premises if the weather proved to be wet too late for it to be included in the publicity. However those who had turned up, and the marionette theatre, were well accommodated at the Bridge Street premises, and Members agreed that co-operation with Tumblers should be formally arranged if the event were repeated, so that the alternative venue could be advertised.

## **436/2007 (411) REVIEW OF 2007 FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT**

Members were given a resume of the actions taken to save events during the flood period over the final weekend. The Grand Junction had stepped in to accommodate Band Jam, the Old Gaolers had transferred to the Radclive Centre and some of the Day in The Park activities had set up in the Old Cattle Pens. It was also reported that the Comedy Night had been well-attended.

Members expressed their thanks to the Chairman for all his efforts towards the Festival Fortnight's success, especially the work he put in over the final days to transfer the flooded-out events.

## **437/2007 MARKET REPORTS**

Cllr. Stevens reported on the various markets.

### 437.1 Street Market

Nothing to report. Some reduction in trader numbers was to be expected because of the holidays.

(381.12) Parked cars in the market

Members had suggested changing the parking restriction signs in the market to give emphasis to the days on which no parking was permitted. BCC had sent a copy of the new design which had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

### 437.2 Flea Market

The market was trading at capacity.

### 437.3 Farmers' Market

The average number of traders remains at 12. It remained to be seen what effect the Foot and Mouth epidemic might have.

*[Clerk's note: at the 7<sup>th</sup> August market, two of the meat traders said they had some frozen stocks, but if movement to abattoirs was still affected beyond September they would have nothing to sell; the other does cured meat and sausages and the stall attendant wasn't sure how they would be affected.]*

### 437.4 To discuss a regular Art Show/Sale in the summer months

In view of the success of the Art Show during the Summer Festival Fortnight it had been suggested that Mr. Foster could use the Cattle Pens for regular Art Shows during the summer months. Members felt that this was a good use of the area and should be encouraged.

The Clerk would write to AVDC to see if they had any objections.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

## **438/2007 BUDGET**

Members had no comment on the budget other than it was convenient to have the Committee budget on the appropriate colour of paper.

**439/2007 PRESS RELEASES**

The following subjects for press releases were put forward:

- The new pealights in the High Street
- The Buckingham in Bloom results (with pictures)
- The Best Kept Village result

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**440/2007 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

The quotation for the provision of signs for the Charter Fairs was approved (£231.82 for both, including carriage).

**ACTION THE CLERK**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....