

TCE/03/24

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Centre and Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 30th September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

Present: Cllr. F. Davies Vice Chair
 Cllr. L. Draper
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. A. Schaefer Town Mayor
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury Chair

Also attending: Cllr. H Mordue
 Ms. Z. Taylor Deputy Town Clerk
 Ms. S. Hoareau Town Centre and External Services Manager
 Mr. S. Beech Compliance and Projects Manager
 Ms. N. Stockill Estates Administrator
 Six members of the public.

Absent: Cllr. R. Ahmed

Public session

The meeting commenced with six residents from Meadway addressing the Committee regarding significant flooding events that occurred on September 23rd and 27th, 2024. The residents, who have resided in Meadway for over twenty years, expressed concern that flooding has only become a frequent issue in the last three years, a situation they believe is linked to recent housing construction along Tingewick Road.

Councillor Stuchbury thanked the residents for their participation and expressed empathy towards their situation. Councillors reassured the attendees that the Town Council would actively pursue answers regarding these issues and would engage with those responsible for planning decisions.

280/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Ahmed.

A minute's silence was held in respect for Mr. M. Hall, former landlord of the New Inn and Friend of Buckingham, who had passed away the previous week.

281/24 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

282/24 Minutes

Members **AGREED** the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2024.

Members **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 8 for the benefit of Cllr. H. Mordue.

30th September 2024

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.....

283/24 Remembrance Day

Cllr. Mordue took the opportunity to report on various matters.

Cllr. Mordue reported that a total of 26 floats are currently booked for this year's Christmas Parade. Additionally, it was noted that the Best Dressed Shop Window Competition will involve public participation in the judging process, aimed at encouraging increased patronage of local shops.

Cllr. Mordue informed members that the Town Council has historically organised the Remembrance Parade. Furthermore, Cllr. Mordue highlighted that the flagpole atop the Old Goal is in disrepair and recommended that funds be allocated for its replacement in next year's precept. It was reported that a proposal for a Twinning Boules Pitch is under consideration for various locations in Buckingham, including a site at the rear of the Chandos Park Bowls Club.

Cllr. Mordue left the Chamber at 7.33pm.

Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr. Harvey informed the Committee that the Peggy Dale donation, which was bequeathed to the Buckingham British Legion, was deposited into a regional legacy fund for expenditure purposes. He noted that the Buckingham RBL branch has not always been successful in their funding applications.

283/24 Budget

Members received and noted the latest budget figures.

284/24 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

There were no updates.

285/24 Bonfire and Fireworks

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre and External Services Manager.

Members **AGREED** for Cllr. Draper and Cllr. Mahi to work with the Town Centre and External Services Manager to organise this year's Bonfire and Fireworks event.

286/24 Christmas Lights switch on

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre and External Services Manager.

Members requested that the programme be published online at the earliest opportunity, including the lyrics to the selected songs. Additionally, they suggested the creation of a QR code poster linking to the song sheets, to be displayed around the stage and throughout the High Street.

It was noted that the Committee reports do not include the associated costs of staff hours. Members expressed their gratitude to the Town Centre and External Services Manager for coordinating a diverse and engaging programme of events.

287/24 Charter Fair

Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

288/24 Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Members commended the Mayor on this year's theme.

Members noted thanks to sponsors BCQ for their continued support of the competition and to the Deputy Town Clerk and Mayor for organising.

289/24 Calendar of Events 2025-2026

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk and agreed the proposed events list for 2025 – 2026. Proposed by Cllr Harvey seconded by Cllr Draper and unanimously **AGREED** to issue a press release at the appropriate time of the proposed list of public events for the 2025 calendar year only. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

290/24 TIC opening hours

Members received and **AGREED** a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

Proposed by Cllr. Davies seconded by Cllr. Schaefer and unanimously **AGREED** the following recommendations:

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members agree that effective from week commencing 30 September 2024, the TIC will officially close between 12:50pm and 1:10pm daily to enable staff to have a formal break.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members note that the TIC staff working day will therefore be extended by 20 minutes to facilitate the break so as not to unfairly reduce paid hours. Start and leave times shall remain flexible to need but are initially expected to be between 9:30am and 4:20pm.

Members noted a positive review of Buckingham in a recent edition of The Daily Mail newspaper.

292/24 Event reviews

Fringe week

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre & External Services Manager. Proposed by Cllr. Schaefer, seconded by Cllr. Davies and unanimously **AGREED** to participate in Fringe Week in 2025.

Members recorded thanks to the Town Centre & External Services Manager.

Summer youth activities

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre & External Services Manager.

Bandjam

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre & External Services Manager. Proposed by Cllr. Davies, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** for the Deputy Town Clerk to report back to Committee on Town Centre charity collection licences at future events, including the availability of a QR code for donations.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Dog Show

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre & External Services Manager. Members recorded thanks to Mike Smith, Terry Bloomfield (Former Town Councillors and Freeman of Buckingham), Cllr. O'Donoghue, the Greenspaces Team, Committee Clerk, and the Town Centre & External Services Manager.

Skate Park

Members received and noted a report from the Town Centre & External Services Manager. Councillors recorded thanks to all of those involved in making it much a popular and positive event.

293/24 Best Kept Village

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator noting that Buckingham won the Community Award and were runners up in the overall competition; and unanimously **AGREED** to participate in the Best Kept Village Competition again in 2025.

Members noted their thanks to all those involved.

294/24 Action list

Members received and noted the action reports and updates.

295/24 News releases

None.

296/24 Chair's items

None.

297/24 Date of the next meeting: Monday 18th November 2024

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Date