



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Committee held on
Tuesday 2 April 2024, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall,
5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP at 7pm**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7.00pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Tim Dixon

Present: Cllr S Bateman
Cllr N Mehta
Cllr A Sherwell
Cllr T Hunter Watts
Cllr D Summers
Cllr M Willis
Cllr P Koya (substitute)

Officers: Ruth Mayhew (Senior Communities and Events Officer, Committee Clerk),
Siobhan Collins (Events Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

Resolved: To accept apologies from Cllr A Christensen (prior commitment) and Cllr D Thompson (illness).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Hunter Watts is a current member of the Bedgrove Residents Association (5i) and his son attends Turnfurlong Junior School (5iv). Will not take part in the discussion and vote.

Cllr Mehta is on Chair of Governors at Turnfurlong Junior School (5iv), will not take part in the discussion and vote.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7:03pm to allow questions from the public and any reports from the councillors.

Representative from Turnfurlong Junior School in attendance and answered questions posed by the committee with reference to item 5 - Community Event Fund Application.

The Chairman resumed the Standing Orders at 7:10pm.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes of 6 February 2023 as a true record.

4. Matters arising

The Senior Communities and Events Officer reported on the following items.

Meetings with Community Pride in Aylesbury continue to go very well, with regular and suitable information sharing. Funding sources and event content are on track to achieve viability deadline of late May / early June. Information was provided on funding applications already made and their associated deadlines, with further funding sources also being researched and progressed.

Battle of the Bands has already exceeded the number of applications made last year, a number of factors could have influenced this. Officers are pleased with the response to date.

No further questions or concerns were raised.

5. Community Event Fund applications

Councillors discussed and reviewed the applications from the Community Event Fund budget. Annual budget of £3,000.

Cllr Mehta left the room when the applicant (5iv – Turnfurlong) addressed the committee 7.03pm and came back in at 7.10pm. Cllr Mehta left the room again for discussions to take place 7.11pm and came back in at 7.26pm. Cllr Mehta left the room during the vote 7.45pm returning at 7.53pm.

Cllr Hunter Watts left the room for discussions to take place (5i – Bedgrove) 7.26pm and came back in at 7.30pm. Cllr Hunter Watts left the room during the vote 7.44pm returning at 7.45pm.

5i. Bedgrove Day in the Park, 13 July, £ £192

Hire of the community centre and provision of a soft play area for the under-fives.

Cllr Bateman proposed, and Cllr Sherwell seconded, to fund £110 for the provision of a soft play area for the under-fives. Applicant to be informed that hall hire costs fall outside of the criteria.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

5ii Southcourt Baptist Church Community Fair, 6 July, up to £750

Contribution towards total entertainment cost of £1690, with other grant funding obtained.

Councillors deferred the decision, and requested officers to obtain further information from applicant, reporting back to the Chairman who will circulate information to committee members for further comment, prior to Chairman making an informed decision about suitable level of contribution, indicated to be in the region of £350.

- 5iii Eid Party arranged by Asrar Ahmed, 11 April, £120 - £822
Entertainment and hall costs for community event, various options provided.

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Willis seconded, to fund £185 for the provision of a face-painter.

Resolved: The committee voted seven in favour with one abstention.

- 5iv Turnfurlong Junior School Fayre, 22 June, £595 - £850
Inflatable activity with various options available from supplier.

Cllr Sherwell proposed, and Cllr Dixon seconded, to fund £350 for the provision of go-karts.

Resolved: The committee voted six in favour with one abstention.

- 5v Florence Fete, 4 May, £425
Attendance of Connel Custard

Cllr Sherwell proposed, and Cllr Bateman seconded, to decline the application, based on the delivery location of the event.

Resolved: The committee voted seven in favour with one abstention.

- 5vi Oak Green Community Fete, 4 May, £90
Bouncy castle hire

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Summers seconded, to fund £90 for the provision of a bouncy castle.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

6. Review budget and planned activities

Councillors reviewed the budgets and planned activities for the Soapbox Derby and Aylesbury on Sea events.

No questions or concerns were raised.

7. Soapbox Derby

Councillors received information from officers about the low numbers in attendance at the inspiration day, praising the content and commitment of the experts who presented, along with the current position of registration sign-ups for this event.

Various scenarios and options were discussed regarding the on-going viability of this event. No action to be taken at this point.

8. Catering and bar selections for all events

Catering

Officers provided details of recommendations for each of the events, to ensure as many of the applications received at least one event to attend, looking at those in parish first, whilst ensuring a balance of cuisines styles, price points, delivery ability, dietary requirements, new traders and event experience is balanced as much as possible.

Following further information and discussion it was decided to include external coffee at Live in the Park.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Metha seconded, to invite the catering companies as detailed by officers.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

Bars

Officers provided recommendations of suitable and appropriate combinations of bars to run across the three days of events, to include Pride in the Park on Friday. All recommendations are in parish and have their own mobile unit.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Willis seconded, to invite the bar companies as detailed by officers.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

9. Sunday Lunch Open Mic

Cllr Bateman provided an update. Over the two years this event has been running, we have reached many people through social media, word of mouth, and people happening to bump into the event. People travelled from abroad with their instruments to play.

People who haven't sung or performed for years took to the stage and some who have never performed before.

All ages, from school children to those of us with whiter hair than we care for, have performed or watched.

Singing, dancing, spoken word. We have enjoyed it all.

We have had over 30 plus people attend most months to perform and watch.

We have three performers taking to the stage at Park Life this summer and one has released a debut single.

From May, Friars Sq will be sponsoring the event and I'll be going along as a supporter rather than a Cllr.

We have lots to be proud of with this event, and it has given live music an opportunity to be shared with many in an inclusive, non judging environment and fully accessible to all.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

10. Event evaluation

Councillors reviewed the event evaluation for 24-25 Rolling Event, Random Acts of Kindness.

11. Aylesbury in Bloom

Summary report given on behalf of the Communities Officer, Environment.

Entries are open for Aylesbury in Bloom 2024 and the closing date is 17th May

A new category has been added to encourage entries from schools who don't have a suitable outdoor space or the resources to have a gardening club. The category is called Creative Cress.

The category of container garden has been removed. In previous years, many residents were doubling up, entering the same space as both a Back or Front Garden and Container Garden.

There is a new balcony category to ensure anyone in an apartment is able to enter. A talk on 'Easy Gardening' will be held in April. It is hoped this will inspire new entrants.

The awards ceremonies will be held at Lindengate for the schools and The Canal Society for residents and organisations.

Michael Anthony Estate Agents continue to support the event.

12. Annual review of charity attendance at events.

Following last years decision to allow charities, in addition to the Mayors chosen charities, to attend events, councillors reviewed attendance in 2023. Noting that all charities in attendance must provide a free activity, which adds value to the event.

Cllr Summers proposed and Cllr Hunter Watts seconded, to continue with additional charities in attendance at the events, based on fair share allocations.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

13. Budget

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to January 2024 (month 10).

Councillors did not raise any concerns.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:11pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman