



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Committee held on  
Tuesday 6 June 2023, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall,  
5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP at 7pm**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Tim Dixon

**Present:** Cllr S Bateman Cllr N Mehta  
Cllr A Christensen Cllr A Sherwell  
Cllr R King (substitute) Cllr M Willis

**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 T Hunter-Watts (work commitment), Cllr D Summers (prior commitment) sent a substitute, and Cllr D Thompson (prior commitment)

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bateman and Cllr Dixon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 and would like to leave the meeting for this item.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr King proposed, and Cllr Sherwell seconded, for Cllr D Summers to be elected as Vice Chairman of the Communities Committee.

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

**4. Minutes**

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes of 4 April 2023 as a true record.

**5. Matters arising**

The Senior Communities and Events Officer informed councillors that all matters arising from the last meeting are detailed within this agenda.

No questions or concerns were raised.

*The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7:04pm to allow questions from the public and any reports from the councillors.*

Sherilynn Bateman raised concerns about some of the detailed costs in item 8, stating that they seemed rather high. She also provided details of an alternative rehearsal location which could be used, which would negate additional costs to the council.

Tim Dixon reported his concerns over the level of drink spiking which is taking place in the town centre. He has had an initial meeting with PC David Grainger, who reported that TVP currently don't have this issue as a priority. Tim Dixon would like to consider the possibility of conducting a promotional campaign to raise awareness, not only of the dangers of drink spiking, but also what to do in the aftermath of it happening. He has run similar campaigns through his current role. Tim Dixon will report back to the committee with further information. Cllrs expressed support of this potential campaign.

*There being no other members of the public present or reports from councillors, the Chairman resumed the Standing Orders at 7:08pm.*

## **6. Event evaluations**

Councillors reviewed and discussed the event evaluations supplied:

### **i) St George's Day Historical Fayre and Parade**

Councillors thanked staff and volunteers for their hard work to organise the event stating that they were well attended and very smooth on the day. Concerns were raised about the pacing and space within the parade, officers assured councillors that every effort is made to minimise breaks in the parade or setting an uncomfortable walking pace.

Cllr Bateman agreed with the suggestions made by officers in the evaluation. Cllr Willis suggested that if the decorative flags can't be carried in the parade, they could potentially be used to decorate the area.

### **ii) Coronation Roadshow**

Cllrs Dixon and Bateman attended all the Coronation roadshow celebrations and reported that they were well attended by local residents. The revised timing scheduled with more time for entertainers at each party and longer travel times between each location was appreciated by entertainers and recipients alike. This was possible due to being undersubscribed for the event.

## **7. Event updates - verbal**

Senior Communities and Events Officer to provided verbal updates on a number of event developments.

### **i) Sunday Lunch Open Mic**

After many setbacks, including the lack of power available in The Exchange and no suitable / safe alternatives for this location, officers sourced a new location, utilising

'The Circle' between Waterside Theatre and Waitrose. This has been achieved with the support of both businesses.

Cllrs thanked officers for all the additional time required to resolve this problem.

Cllrs in attendance at the event, along with the event provider, have identified a couple of minor tweaks, which will improve the experience for visitors at the next sessions.

Cllrs requested some additional online promotion and print material going forward, officers to action.

Cllrs discussed the on-going situation, of the unusable space in The Exchange, stating that further communication with Buckinghamshire Council is required to push forward the need to repair the space. Consideration for this issue to be taken to full council.

A member of the public suggested that stalls should be added to the event, this has been declined for several reasons.

Cllrs to start looking at alternative winter locations for this event, to ensure a suitable location is confirmed in an appropriate time frame.

ii) Soapbox Derby

Officers provided information about the on-going issues with sourcing adequate insurance for Soapbox Derby, informing Cllrs that this will be in place in time for the event. Additional cost will be covered from ring-fenced reserves, as the council wish to honour the time and effort undertaken by those taking part in the event.

Officers indicated that consideration about the long-term viability of this event must be discussed prior to budget discussions in September. Further information will be provided in due course.

*7:42pm Cllr A Christensen left the meeting to attend a prior commitment.*

iii) Sharing Joy will be taking place on 22 June, ticket allocations are on-going.

*7:45pm Cllr R King left the meeting to attend a prior commitment.*

iv) Councillors discussed at length the arguments for and against low noise / silent fireworks, in relation to animals and delivery of the event. With information sourced from the RSPCA, The Office for Product Safety & Standards, a respected firework provider and The Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Cllrs requested that officers ensure all risks are fully detailed and assessed in the event's Risk Assessment.

v) Cllr Willis proposed, and Cllr Sherwell seconded, that UK Astronomy are to be paid the sum of £300 to provide Stars in the Park as part of the Parklife Weekend, and that dedicated security be provided for the duration of their event. Funds to be allocated from the existing Parklife Weekend budget code 4620.

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

No further questions or concerns were raised.

*8:01pm Cllrs Dixon and Bateman left the meeting*

Cllr Willis proposed, and Cllr Mehta seconded, that Cllr A Sherwell be the Chairman for the next agenda item in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

## 8. Rolling event 2023

Councillors discussed the details provided for the delivery of A Christmas Carol as the rolling event for 2023. Cllr Mehta requested clarity on the ownership of the costumes after the event, officers confirmed that the provider will pass them to another production company who may make use of them.

No further questions or concerns were raised.

Cllr Willis proposed and Cllr Mehta seconded that a dementia and family friendly version of 'A Christmas Carol' to tour local care homes and a town center performance from local company Ubiquitous Theatre Company (UTC), as the rolling event for 2023, with a maximum spend of £1960. Rehearsals not to take place at the Town Hall, as other spaces are available to the provider without cost.

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

*8:10pm Cllrs Dixon and Bateman returned to the meeting.*

## 9. Festival of Lights 2023

Councillors considered the request from Holy Cow Community Events to contribute towards this year's Festival of Light to the sum of £1000 - £2500. A lengthy discussion included this application and the process currently used to allocate the £2k funding. It was agreed that further discussions with the Clerk are required to establish an official protocol for all potential event requests to go through. Until this protocol is in place, it was agreed to reflect the relevant guidance in place for the Grants Committee.

The possibility of offering £250 was discussed and rejected.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Willis seconded not to support the request of funding from Holy Cow Home Community Events for Festival of Lights 2023.

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

## 10. Youth Town Council activities

Verbal update was provided by the Senior Communities and Events Officer including:

Currently have nine YTC's

YTC visited Aylesbury Foodbank and packed boxes for six families - during the mayor-hood of Cllr Tim Dixon.

Five YTC's (Chidum Eke, Charlotte Carpenter, John Utime, Sophie Nowak & Victoria Piro) attended the inauguration of the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on 19 May.

Three Youth Town Councillors volunteered at the St Georges Day event as part of their annual commitment to be on the Youth Town Council.

AYTC had 802 followers on Instagram.

Youth Town Councillors are using LinkedIn. It's been a brilliant way to show the impact they are making in the community. Would appreciate Cllrs support and interaction via the Town Council LinkedIn page. Cllr Dixon echoed the importance of connecting with YTC's on LinkedIn as a valuable way to improve their presence on this professional platform.

If any Cllrs are able to offer or support any work experience, please let Bee know.

## 11. Budget

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to March 2023 (month 12).

Councillors did not raise any concerns.

**12. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7pm.

*There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:42pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman