



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Committee held on
Tuesday 7 February 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 A Christensen
Cllr P Koya
Cllr N Mehta
Cllr D Summers
Cllr D Thompson
Cllr T Hunter-Watts

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 G Wadhwa (prior commitment), Cllr M Willis (prior commitment)

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr N Mehta declared a personal interest in item 9, as she is a trustee at Queens Park Arts Centre.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes of 14 December 2022 as a true record.

4. Matters arising

The Senior Communities and Events Officer updated councillors on the following:

The headline act, which the Communities Committee had previously requested, has been confirmed and booked for this year's Live in the Park. Councillors were shown the current line-up of booked artists, no questions or concerns were raised.

Following the resolution from the committee meeting on 14 December 2022, officers contacted Buckinghamshire Council (BC) to raise questions about the proposed partnership event, WhizzFizzFest (WFF). Lengthy and positive communications followed between officers and BC, where the questions raised were addressed and resolved, in a proactive and cooperative manner. Following the officers consultation with the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Communities Committee, this proposed partnership event is being taken forward. ATC are waiting for the agreement to be submitted by BC. It is anticipated that the content will be agreeable, and the partnership event will be confirmed, following consultation with the Town Clerk and Chairman.

The proposed event will see a new format WFF incorporated into the existing Aylesbury on Sea event on 2 July 2023, with BC providing £10k funding to the running costs of the event and ATC managing and running the event. This will be part of a county wide BC initiative, involving two other festivals, also hosted at two existing events in other towns.

Officer explained the proposed feel of the new WFF will focus on the community and people being directly involved at the event.

Cllr Christensen raised concerns over how many years BC will commit to funding the costs of this new event. Officer reported that BC have a three-year commitment of funding, which will be reviewed and confirmed annually after the event delivery.

No other questions or concerns were raised.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7:12pm to allow questions from the public and any reports from the councillors.

There being no members of the public present or reports from councillors, The Chairman resumed the Standing Orders at 7:12pm.

5. Event evaluations

The committee reviewed and discussed the event evaluations supplied for Christmas on the Cobbles and Carolfest.

Councillors praised the Christmas on the Cobbles event, stating that it was successful and enjoyed by many visitors.

Resolved: From feedback and analysis a number of specific items were discussed, with the following agreed.

- i. Retain overall format from 2022, with slight tweaks to timings of activities.
- ii. Keep fireworks, with the possibility of reducing the display time slightly.
- iii. Re-book the Illuminated Drummers
- iv. Look at the parade route and public viewing opportunities, to see if this can be improved / increased.
- v. Consider ways to improve the mustering location and process.
- vi. Consider ways to increase daytime attendance with more for adults to engage with.
- vii. Consider expanding into other areas of the town center, and to report back to the committee how this will impact staffing and volunteer requirements.
- viii. Revision of Market Square layout, to improve flow and visitor engagement.
- ix. Suggest that local businesses create specific promotional offers for event day.

No additional questions or concerns were raised.

6. Parklife Weekend

Senior Communities and Events Officer provided a verbal update on the following.

- i. Confirmation of bands, with information circulated as part of agenda item 4.
- ii. Sponsorship agreements to be confirmed
 - Bucks Radio will provide a two-week promotional campaign, in exchange for branding of the second stage.
 - XYZ Music Academy will host and run the Battle of the Bands competition, in the same format as 2022, and supply drum kits for the main stages, with logo displayed on event poster and other sponsor benefits.
 - Radley Aylesbury will provide a promotional trailer with sound and lighting to be used as a demonstration area in the CIA, in exchange for event exposure and social tags.
 - Aylesbury Alternative Music Society, a new supporter of Battle of the Bands, will promote and be on the judging panel, in exchange for logo on Battle of the Bands poster.
- iii. Battle of the Bands will run as last year, with a couple of minor tweaks to improve and the inclusion of Aylesbury Alternative Music Society as detailed above.
- iv. Catering applications - 20 have been received to date. Deadline is 19 March. Councillors to provide details of potential additional applicants.
- v. Option was given to change how we approach bars to supply the event. Councillors agreed that giving "in parish" opportunities first was essential and to retain the process used last year.

No questions or concerns were raised.

7:45pm Cllr A Christensen left the meeting.

7. Purchase of event equipment

Councillors considered the purchase of equipment to support community events from the 22/23 underspend, as specified by officers.

Cllr Summers proposed and Cllr Mehta seconded, to purchase the items detailed in the briefing paper.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

8. Summer hanging baskets

Councillors considered an increase in the rate charged to local businesses for the summer hanging baskets to cover the increasing costs.

Cllr Koya proposed and Cllr Thompson seconded, to increase prices of summer hanging baskets to £49+VAT and new brackets to £25+VAT.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

7:50pm Cllr Mehta left the meeting

9. The Bard of Aylesbury

Councillors considered the proposal from Queens Park Arts Centre / Unbound Theatre, to have, promote, fund and support the introduction of a Bard of Aylesbury, with information supplied by Queens Park Arts Centre. Councillors considered

making a financial contribution to assist with the purchase of a “uniform” for The Bard.

Cllr Summers proposed and Cllr Bateman seconded, to support the introduction of a Bard of Aylesbury, with a financial contribution of £500 to provide a suitable robe/uniform/outfit.

Resolved: The committee agreed to the above proposal, with five for and one abstention.

10. Budget

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to December 2022 (month 9).

Councillors did not raise any concerns.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman