



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON
08 JUNE 2021, AT 7.00pm, COUNCIL CHAMBER,
TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY

Present: Cllr T Dixon (Chairman)
Cllr S Bateman
Cllr P Koya
Cllr N Mehta
Cllr A Morgan
Cllr S Morgan (substituting for Cllr M Willis)
Cllr D Summers
Cllr D Thompson
Cllr G Wadhwa

Officers in attendance: Judith Priest (Senior Communities Officer)
Ruth Mayhew (Senior Events Officer)

The meeting was called to order at 7.00pm by Cllr Dixon

- 1. APOLOGIES**
RESOLVED: To receive and unanimously accept apologies for absence from Cllr M Willis (work commitment).
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
No declarations received.
- 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**
To receive nominations and elect a Vice-Chairman for the 2021/22 municipal year. Nominations were sought. It was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr S Morgan that Cllr Summers be elected Vice Chairman. No further nominations were forthcoming.
RESOLVED: On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Summers be duly elected to serve as Vice-Chairman in 2021/22.
- 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2021**
To receive and agree the above minutes as a true record.
RESOLVED: The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the Minutes of 13 April 2021 as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7.02pm to allow questions from the public and any reports from the councillors.

There was no public in attendance and no reports received from the councillors.

The chairman resumed the Standing Order at 7.02pm

6. COMMUNITIES WORK

The Senior Communities Officer gave a verbal update on the communities' work and projects currently undertaken by the council. This includes:

- Communities Events
- Aylesbury Youth Town Council
- Dementia Friendly Aylesbury
- Aylesbury in Bloom
- Charity and local organisations networking events
- Community engagement projects and working with local organisations and groups
- Great British Spring Clean
- Floral Displays and hanging baskets in the town
- Marketing and Communications

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITIES WORK FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

The committee discussed aims and objectives for the next two years and the kind of projects and initiatives the communities committee and council want to start and or get involved with. These included:

- French/Continental markets and if they could be brought back again
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Engaging with young people in the parish to see what they would like in terms of events, services and facilities
- An event like Mela, which was started many years ago by Indian Cultural Society

Points discussed to be discussed further at upcoming committee meetings.

Cllr S Morgan suggested that information gathered by the Aylesbury Community Board Youth engagement survey project is shared with the Town Council.

8. TOWN COUNCIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councillors looked at Saturday dates when committee members and councillors are available to have a stall at the Aylesbury Market to engage with the residents and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Council.

Cllr Dixon proposed, Cllr A Morgan seconded, to commit to Saturday 31 July 2021.

RESOLVED: On being put to the vote the committee unanimously agreed to have

a stall in Market Square on Saturday 31 July 2021 and for a rota to be created for councillors to cover attendance at the stall for 1-2 hours.

9. PARKLIFE WEEKEND 2021

The Senior Events Officer gave a verbal update on the planning and progress of Parklife Weekend 2021. Bands and suppliers are currently being booked and all is progressing well. A Gold command advisor has been contracted to consult on the event plans for this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the possible change in behaviour pattern by attendees to ensure security and safety of the public and participants are all sufficiently covered.

10. HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021

The Senior Events Officer gave a verbal update on the planning and progress of Heritage Open Days and the participating organisations. A full listing of events and locations will be made available in a printed leaflet in addition to the Council's website, social media, and the national Heritage Open Day website.

11. STREET ENTERTAINMENT FOR HERITAGE OPEN DAYS WEEKEND

The committee discussed the option of having street entertainment at Heritage Open Day weekend and to apply for a match funded grant from Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr Summer proposed, Cllr Thompson seconded to spend £500 from the communities' budget on street entertainment for Heritage Open Days and to apply for a match funded street entertainment grant to Buckinghamshire Council.

RESOLVED: The committee unanimously agreed to spend £500 from the communities' budget on street entertainment for Heritage Open Days and to apply for a grant to Buckinghamshire Council.

12. CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2021

The committee discussed if the council should start planning the Christmas events 2021 (Festive Family Fun and Carolfest) under the proviso that government COVID-19 guidance allows for such events to go ahead.

Cllr A Morgan proposed, Cllr Summer seconded that planning and preparations should be made for the events to go ahead in their usual format taking any COVID-19 guidelines into account.

RESOLVED: On being put to the vote the committee unanimously agreed for the planning of the Christmas events 2021, Festive Family Fun and Carolfest, to commence.

13. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AND QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The committee discussed the content of the Briefing paper, received in advance of the meeting and how the Council can mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which aligns with the climate emergency resolution the Council made in 2019.

The committee is aware that there will be some ongoing costs in terms of maintenance and establishing the tree saplings.

Cllr Dixon proposed, Cllr Mehta seconded for the council to apply to the Woodland Trust for free tree saplings and to plant these on land that is accessible to the public and which planting permission has been sought. Should the Council not qualify for the free tree saplings, to spend, from the communities' budget, up to £200 on 105 tree saplings plus £350 for tubes and stakes to help protect the saplings. For the council to liaise with neighbouring parish council to ascertain if they require trees to possibly have one combined order.

RESOLVED: The committee unanimously agreed for the council to apply to the Woodland Trust for free tree saplings to plant on land that is accessible to the public and for which planting permission has been sought.

To purchase tree saplings at a cost of up to £200 for around 105 saplings, from the communities' budget, should the Council not qualify for the free tree saplings, as these are given out on a first come first served basis.

To liaise with neighbouring parish councils to ascertain if they require tree saplings and have one combined sapling order.

To purchase tubes and stakes to help protect the saplings whilst growing at a cost of £350 for 105 from the communities' budget.

14. **BIN BAG HOOPS**

The committee discussed to purchase further bin bag hoops to extend the community litter pick kit with more equipment.

Cllr Summers proposed, Cllr S Morgan seconded for 20 bin bag hoops to be purchased for the community litter pick kit at a cost of up to £130+VAT.

RESOLVED: Councillors unanimously agreed to purchase 20 bin bag hoops at a cost of £130+VAT

15. **BANNERS**

The committee discussed that artwork and information on the twelve existing pop-up banners needs to be updated to be correct again.

Cllr Bateman proposed, Cllr Thompson seconded for the 12 banners to be updated at a cost of £610 from the Publicity and printing cost code.

RESOLVED: On being put to the vote the committee unanimously agreed to have the 12 existing pop-up banners updated at a cost of £610.

16. **BUDGET**

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to April 2021 (month 1). No recommendations are to be taken to full council.

11. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The meeting on Tuesday 20 July has been cancelled and the next planned meeting is Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 7pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:09pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman