



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Committee held on  
Tuesday 24 September 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 M Baldwin Cllr M Willis

**Officers:** Ruth Mayhew (Senior Communities and Events Officer, Committee Clerk),  
Dan Reynolds (Events Officer)

**1. Apologies for absence**

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

**Resolved:** To accept apologies from Cllr A Sherwell (prior commitment), and Cllr T Hunter Watts (prior commitment)

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr N Mehta has an interest in item 5i as she is the trustee of an organisation supporting the organisation making the CEF application.

*The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7:02pm to allow questions from the public and any reports from the councillors*

Councillors asked questions to Sriparna Banerjee and a colleague from Triveni, requesting clarification over the activity details of the CEF application in item 5i.

*7:19pm Sriparna Banerjee and colleague left the meeting*

Alistair Barton from Aylesbury Community Pride gave a short presentation about the success of the Pride event and thanked councillors and Aylesbury Town Council for their support in the inaugural Pride in the Park event, expressing their desire to build on successes in 2025.

*7:29pm Alistair Barton left the meeting*

*7:29pm The Chairman resumed the Standing Orders*

### 3. Minutes

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes of Tuesday 30 July 2024 as a true record.

### 4. Matters arising

The Senior Communities and Events Officer reported no matters arising from previous minutes.

*7:31pm Cllr N Metha left the meeting*

### 5. Community Event Fund

5i Councillors discussed the application made to the Community Event Fund budget, by Sriparna Banerjee from Triveni, for £750 to cover costs for a priest (£500), decorations (£250) and stage hire (£612) for an event running across three days (10-12 October 2024), at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

Cllr Bateman proposed, and Cllr Baldwin seconded, not to support the application due to a lack of clarity over the 'activity' to be provided, and therefore does not fit the criteria for the CEF.

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

*7:49pm Cllr N Metha re-joined the meeting*

5ii Councillors reviewed feedback received from St Joseph's school and were pleased that the petting zoo was well received with ATCs support appropriately publicised.

### 6. Event evaluation

Councillors reviewed and praised full event evaluation for the Pride in the Park, prepared and presented by Aylesbury Community Pride. Noting positive personal and anecdotal praise of the event for its inclusivity and overall success. Councillors are willing to support a 2025 Pride in the Park event, organised by Aylesbury Community Pride.

### 7. Review budget and planned activities

Officers provided an update following the Arts Council England funding application, explaining the different plans and budgets depending on the outcome of the application.

Councillors reviewed and discussed the proposed budgets and planned content for Christmas on the Cobbles and Carolfest.

Cllr Willis asked for confirmation of what councillor assistance would be required, officers confirmed that councillors are requested to be parade stewards and marshals and that officers will be in contact with councillors in the coming weeks to ascertain their availability.

No further questions or concerns were raised.

## 8. New event for 2025

Councillors discussed at length three new proposed event formats for 2025 to replace Soapbox Derby on Father's Day. Officers provided clarity for the planned content and delivery of each of the proposals.

Cllr Baldwin proposed, and Cllr Willis seconded, to proceed with option one, namely a multi-generational activity day, filled with activities which could be accessed by many ages and all abilities. Name of event to be discussed and agreed, with delivery on Father's Day.

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

Councillors asked that activities be included to promote female inclusion, extended use of DJ Dan Blaze and to approach local disability charities to encourage and support engagement in disability sports.

## 9. Proposed event dates for 2025

Councillors discussed and agreed the proposed event dates for 2025 which will enable officers to start planning, pending final budget approvals by the Council.

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Mehta seconded, to accept the proposed dates.

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

## 10. Hanging baskets 2025/26

Councillors discussed retaining the same price as this year into next year for hanging baskets to businesses.

Cllr Willis proposed, and Cllr Bateman seconded, to keep the prices the same as 2024 into 2025 for businesses to be part of the hanging baskets campaign.

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

## 11. Communities budget 2025/26

Councillors reviewed and discussed the proposed Communities budget for 2025/26 as part of full budgetary proposals.

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Willis seconded, that budget line 1043 for the sale of Heritage Walk Booklets be removed and for officers to explore opportunities to make positive use of the booklets, then to write off the costs. Sales are almost non-existent with the introduction of the new digital heritage trail.

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

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Baldwin seconded, to remove income line 1043, then to accept proposed budget ready to take to full council for consideration.

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

## 12. Budget

To look at the budgetary position to August 2024 (month 5) and to make any recommendations to take to full Town Council if appropriate.

Councillors did not raise any concerns.

**11. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 7pm.

*There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:55pm*

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

DRAFT