

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders at 7:03pm 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 7:03pm

5. Event evaluation from Sunday Lunch Open Mic

The committee reviewed and discussed the event evaluation supplied by the third-party provider and feedback from councilors who attended the events.

It was agreed that there were some challenges, and some sessions were better than others, but this opportunity provided a unique platform for experience which developed the skills for a variety of local artists. It was noted that the popularity and content of the event grew and improved month on month. Questions were raised about the suitability of the location in The Exchange.

Committee discussed a request from the third-party supplier to continue to financially support these events across the winter months, in a new indoor location. Third-party provider and venue to provide PLI, all equipment and hosting; ATC to provide revised artwork and social media support.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Bateman seconded, to fund winter sessions of Sunday Lunch Open Mic, to take place in Temple Street Coffee from October till March, at a cost of £100 per session, with balance of monies required to come from budget line 4610-Communities.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

6. Dementia Activities

Senior Communities and Events Officer provided a verbal report, written by the Communities Officer, about recent Dementia initiatives and activities - including updates on face-to-face sessions, current number of dementia friends created, on-line sessions booked for 2023, Tuesday Tunes including a successful visit from the Mayor, attendance of outside agencies at these sessions who are providing sign-posting opportunities for attendees, the change in how the Dementia Friends initiative is run with more emphasis and ownership placed on the receiving body to take action following their training, certificates have been awarded to those who have taken positive actions. All of these initiatives are having a positive impact on the town.

Cllr Bateman praised the success of Tuesday Tunes.

No additional questions or concerns were raised.

7. Garden Competition

Senior Communities and Events Officer provided a verbal report, written by the Communities Liaison Officer (Environments), about the success of this year's competition - including the increase of participants and the high standard of gardens viewed. The presentation evening was delayed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II and is rescheduled for October.

No questions or concerns were raised.

8. **Christmas on the Cobbles**

Councillors discussed the proposed name for this new event which marks the switching on of the Christmas lights, accompanied by free family entertainment and an illuminated parade.

Cllr Christensen proposed and Cllr Bateman seconded, to name the new event Christmas on the Cobbles

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

9. **Upcoming events, budget updates and planned formats**

Councillors reviewed and agreed the proposed budgets and formats for Christmas on the Cobbles and Carolfest.

No questions or concerns were raised

10. **Christmas on the Cobbles - event partnership and sponsorship**

Senior Communities and Events Officer provided verbal updates on current partnership and sponsorship agreements with Friars Square Shopping Centre - event partner; Bucks Radio - sponsorship package; HSBC Bank - event sponsor; and Estate agent opportunities.

No questions or concerns were raised

11. **Alternative for St George's Day Parade 2023**

Councillors discussed the proposed alternatives for the St George's Day Parade, required due to the expected redevelopment works in the town centre, which will prohibit the parade element of this event taking place.

Councillors praised the parade which took place in April this year, and expressed a desire that it be the same in 2023, if possible.

Cllr Christensen proposed and Cllr Bateman seconded, for the Town Clerk to contact Buckinghamshire Council, making the request that a suitable alternative location be allocated to hold the historical fayre and parade, with the suggestion of using either Exchange Street or Waterside North carparks, with no cost to ATC. Then, in the situation that it is impossible to hold the parade in Market Square or alternative suitable location, due to the redevelopment works, Officers along with the guidance of the Town Clerk to make final decision on parade viability by mid-January. In this instance the historical fayre is still to be organised to take place in Discover Bucks Museum.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

It was noted that if the event and parade take place in an alternative location, additional funds will be required to provide marquees / shelter for the historical fayre participants.

12. **Parklife Weekend 2022, event evaluation**

Councillors discussed at length the Parklife Weekend 2022 event evaluation.

Praise and thanks was given to all officers, councillors and volunteers who attended the event, making it a great success for the town.

Cllr Christensen expressed his concern about specific incidents of anti-social behaviour displayed by some members of the public during the event. Officers to liaise with representatives from SAG and TVP to ensure a reduction in future years.

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

- i) Revise the position of staging to create additional space in the park, by moving it back approx. 10m which will cover some of the concrete path.
- ii) Inclusion of a standing only, D-shaped curve, at the front of the stage.
- iii) Data to be collected from all entry points to enable the assessment of the viability of a more substantial move in 2024, should further additional space in the park be required.
- iv) Installation of “Disney” queuing systems at all catering and bar stalls.
- v) Additional sound tower behind the central sound desk to improve amplification to the back of the park.
- vi) At Proms, remove adverts from the screens. Instead, explore ideas to have images relating to each of the pieces, alongside essential messages, ATC branding and words to the key songs. This will require a dedicated person to control the screens.
- vii) Explore the possibility of extending the Battle of the Bands to 9pm, with the encouragement of younger bands, as this will appeal to older teens.
- viii) Having a DJ set for the first 45mins - 1 hour, to allow the event to fill, before showcasing the live music and give visitors time to set up. This could be in association with Bucks Radio (second stage sponsor), alternative DJs to be explored.
- ix) Repeat the gentle rides in the children’s zone.
- x) Hiring the services of Mobiloo, who provide a dedicated and specific unit, which can be used by all disabilities, including those who require a hoist.
- xi) Inclusion of a “demonstration” area in the CIA

The following items were discussed and discounted at this time.

- i) The advantages of having live footage to the back screen, this could improve visitor experience, but would increase costs, reduce income, and prohibit sharing of essential information about the event. Different requirements at Live and Proms.
- ii) Sound levels to be monitored in residential areas around the site.

13. Proposed event dates for 2023

Councillors discussed the proposed event dates for 2023 to enable officers to start planning, pending on final budget approvals by the Council.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Koya seconded, to proceed with all dates proposed.
Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

14. Allocation of catering stalls as events

Councillors discussed the benefits of a single application form to be issued at the start of the year, to cover all events, allowing officers to select suitable catering at each event.

Cllr Dixon proposed and Cllr Koya seconded, for officers to issue a single application form at the start of the year, to cover all events, allowing officers to select suitable catering at each event.

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

15. Communities budget 2023/24

Councillors reviewed and discussed the proposed Communities budget for 2023/24.

Cllr Bateman proposed and Cllr Koya seconded, for the proposed budget to be presented to the Full Council as part of the Town Council's budget review for 2023/24

Resolved: The committee unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

16. Budget

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to August 2022 (month 5). Councillors did not raise any concerns.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman