



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Committee held on  
Tuesday 30 July 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 D Summers  
Cllr A Sherwell Cllr D Thompson

**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 M Baldwin (illness), Cllr T Hunter Watts (work commitment), Cllr N Mehta (family commitment) and Cllr M Willis (work commitment)

**2. Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were raised.

**3. Minutes**

**Resolved:** The committee unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes of Tuesday 4 June 2024 as a true record.

**4. Matters arising**

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

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

*The Chairman resumed the Standing Orders at 7:02pm.*

## 5. Event evaluations

Councillors reviewed and appraised the full event evaluations for the following events.

### i) Soapbox Derby

Cllr Bateman thanked Officers for organising and delivering an enjoyable family event.

Councillors discussed concerns raised about the events' sustainability, based on the findings of the event evaluation, primarily the consistently decreasing participation figures and the fact that participating karts are the key and essential element of the event.

Officers highlighted that decisions about event viability should not be simply a financial consideration, implications and considerable impact on the wider team and securing that essential commitment isn't always viable with changes of staff circumstance and personnel.

It was noted that attendance figures are still high, however retention during the event has decreased with the reducing number of participants.

Cllr Dixon proposed, and Cllr Bateman seconded, to cancel the Soapbox Derby, with Officers to present a variety of ideas to the committee at the September meeting, to include a new replacement event along with extension to existing events.

**Resolved:** The committee voted four in favour with one abstention.

### ii) Aylesbury on Sea - cancelled

Officers reported that the Inclement Weather Procedure was followed meticulously which resulted in the difficult decision to cancel the event at 3pm the day before the event was scheduled to take place. Each supplier and caterer was personally spoken to, with support and agreement received from all involved, especially caterers.

Only a couple of complaints were received across all social media channels, with other members of the public refuting the negative comments and defending the decision.

Cllr Bateman praised Officers for their meticulous planning and appropriate cancellation of the event.

## 6. Community Event Fund

Councillors reviewed feedback received from

### i) Bedgrove Day in the Park

### ii) Southcourt Baptist Church Community Fair

### iii) Turnfurlong Summer Fair

Councillors Summers and Sherwell attended the Bedgrove and Turnfurlong events respectively, both providing positive feedback about the activities provided, with gratitude of visitors for the free activity.

Cllr Lloyd expressed praise of the Community Event Fund via email, which was reported to the committee.

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

Senior Communities and Events Officer to provide verbal updates on Parklife Weekend including:

Pride - all plans are dovetailing in well. Pride are struggling with PPL / PRS, so we will be attempting to assist with possible, cross charging if appropriate.

Bands - all are still on board, with no changes to the existing line up.

Battle of the Bands - judges for the event were discussed and confirmed as Councillors Dixon and Summers.

Volunteers - currently only a few councillors have responded. Officers to send reminder request and councillors to encourage sign-up with colleagues.

Sponsorship - time checks and ads are being broadcast across Bucks Radio, and sound good.

## **8. Review budget and planned activities**

Councillors reviewed the budget and planned activities for Heritage Open Days and Walking Play, as well as receiving an update from the Events Officer which included waiting to book potential entertainer for Saturday 7 September.

So far 30 confirmed events, 18 of which are new, with a further 10 to be confirmed.

- Town Hall open day to include screenings of various local interest, amateur films from the 60s and before
- A 'marketplace' of activity in Discover Bucks Museum with around eight different elements
- Presentations from Bucks Historical Association and John Hampden Society
- Acoustic sets with Dung Beatles and Otway and Barrett (which is pending final confirmation of venue)
- Performances from RAF Halton Pipe Band
- Opening of Masonic Hall, with thanks to Cllr Summers
- Walking Play included within HOD, and therefore free

Final deadline, set by HOD, is Thursday 8 August, with all potential locations being regularly communicated with.

Poster and brochure will be produced.

Councillors praised the vast expansion of this event and number of event location partners. Well done to Events Officer, Dan Reynolds, for his hard work on improving this event, with obvious positive results.

## **9. Youth Town Council**

Councillors reviewed the updated governing documents in preparation for a new approach to recruitment, retention and responsibilities of Aylesbury Youth Town Council.

- i) Governing document
- ii) Code of conduct
- iii) Disciplinary Procedure

Cllr Bateman noted that they are very well-structured documents.

Cllr Tompson proposed, and Cllr Dixon seconded, to accept the proposed documents to form the basis for the renewed Youth Town Council.

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

**10. Budget**

The committee reviewed the current budgetary position to May 2024 (month 2).

Councillors did not raise any concerns.

**11. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 7pm.

*There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:56pm*

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