

Minutes of the COMMUNITIES AND EVENTS Committee meeting

Held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 8.00pm in the Council Office

Cllrs.	Miss S Jefferys (Chairman)	Mrs M Heath (ex officio)
	Mrs S Williams (Vice-Chairman)	Mrs T Riley (ex officio)
	Mr A Hans	Mr S Sproul
	Ms K Bowen	Mr A Pamment
	Mr W Davey	
Clerk.	Mr J Coleman	

Aims and Objectives of the Communities and Events Committee

To ensure that the work of the Council is communicated to all stakeholders as efficiently and quickly as possible

To organise and arrange events across the Parish for the whole community

To identify the wishes and concerns of the residents by regular and relevant survey and drop in events

To enrol groups of 'volunteers' we are able to call upon as needs arise

Regular and adequate Training of Committee Members

Recruitment of volunteers

Fundraising

Use and scope of Social Media

The Aims and Objectives were agreed as current and fit for purpose.

1. Apologies for absence.
There were no apologies for absence.
2. Notification of Any Other Business
None.
3. Matters dealt with under Urgent Action since the last meeting.
None.
4. Matters arising from the previously distributed and approved minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016 not dealt with in this agenda.
None.
5. Correspondence List
The Clerk had not received any requests for copies of items on the correspondence list.
6. Denham Green Christmas Fayre 2016
Cllr. Jefferys had not received a reply from McCarthy and Stone to her letter regarding sponsorship for this years' event. Cllr. Pamment had drafted a letter to Bosch, IHG and Martin Baker. It was agreed that the letter was a good starting point but needed to include the various ways that the organisations could help, i.e. Physical and material help, money donations, gift donations etc. Cllr. Pamment to create a further draft and email to the committee for comment. It was agreed that the letter could be tweaked to reach out to

smaller businesses. Cllr. Jefferys to create a marketing pack to support the letter and email to the committee for comment.

The Clerk confirmed that Bloor Homes had donated £200.00 to the last event and that we now need to send the agreed £1000.00 to Rennie Grove at Home charity. Cllr. Jefferys to email the Clerk with contact details.

Cllr. Jefferys to create a timetable similar to last years and email it to the committee in order they can add their thoughts to it.

Cllr. Jefferys reported that the shopkeepers in the main were keen for the event to be repeated this year and some had expressed a wish for it to start earlier at 5pm although it was felt that some stall holders would struggle to get set up in time. The Fine Food Store would not be happy for the event to be held on a weekday and would prefer a weekend. The owner has three shops in the parade and is also concerned about the early closure of the parade, claiming loss of business. Cllr. Heath asked if the residents had been asked their views on last years' event; Cllr. Jefferys replied that we had not received any complaints and that all the feedback was positive. It was decided to write to the residents for their views, the Clerk to draft a letter.

With regards to the meeting with shopkeepers, it was agreed that the meeting should take place in the Parish Council Office and not in the Thai restaurant. Cllr. Jefferys stated that Boots would attend along with the Florists, the Village butcher, the Solicitors and the Mica Store. The Hairdressers and the Appliance Store had declined.

The best day to hold the event was discussed and agreed that it should be kept as the last Wednesday in November as Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter hold their events on Thursday and Friday respectively. Sundays were discounted as they were deemed to be family days.

7. Capability Brown 300th Anniversary

There has been no feedback from Denham Place on whether or not they will open their Capability Brown designed garden. It was decided that if Denham Place decline to open their garden, the Parish Council could hold an event on the Village Green. Cllr. Pamment was investigating the possibility of Morris dancing and was trying to contact the Grand Union Morris Men and Cllr. Heath suggested contacting the Woodside Morris Men and to contact Mr Brench at the Falcon. Cllr. Pamment enquired as to the budget in place; Cllr. Williams stated that it was usual to pay travelling expenses plus two pints of beer each. Cllr. Heath said that Mr Brench may consider laying on sandwiches as well. It was agreed that August would be the preferable time to hold the event.

8. William Shakespeare 400th Anniversary

Cllr. Pamment informed the committee that The Lions Part had recently finished performing 12th Night and he will contact them to ascertain their availability. Cllr. Davey advised that Hall Barn Open Air also had performing players; Cllr. Davey to email Cllr. Pamment with their details. Cllr. Jefferys enquired as to the cost of a travelling group of players; Cllr. Davey suggested liaising with them first then make an offer. Cllr. Bowen advised that the Lions Part normally pass a hat around for donations. Cllr. Williams will speak to Rosie to see if Mr Lindsey would be willing to open the event. It was decided to leave the date for the event until we know the players availability and that it would be best to avoid the holiday period.

9. Advertising for Active Bucks

The Co-Clerk had written a report that was circulated to members. See below:

We have been informed that the arrangements are now well advanced. Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) has been appointed to facilitate the sessions. GLL are very active across the whole of London and also already provide services for South Bucks, Chiltern, Wycombe and other Buckinghamshire DCs.

We have attracted funding, from Active Bucks, for two sessions per week for six months. We have the opportunity of continuing the sessions provided that they can be self-financed.

The activity will start by the beginning of May 2016, and the proposal for the Denham, Gerrards Cross, Fulmer and Hedgerley LAF group area says they will deliver in Fulmer Village Hall, Denham Village Memorial Hall and New Denham Community Centre.

They plan to do a combination of Yoga and Pilates – as chosen by ourselves and Fulmer Parish Council which sounds quite interesting. They are going to use the Hatha Yoga techniques or Winsor Pilates techniques, which, it is understood, are highly regarded techniques. The plan is to offer a progressive development class suitable for beginners with development aspects by an instructor fully affiliated to the Register of the Exercise Professionals (REPS). Each session will involve a warm up, cool down, skills development section and a relaxation element, followed by refreshments.

Apparently GLL are also going to offer some incentives to participants who want to move on to more advanced sessions, and anyone completing a minimum set of sessions will also be provided with rewards including free swim passes, water bottles, draw string bags, yoga mats or a family activity pass to a holiday camp run by GLL

We believe that GLL are happy to consider a mix of evenings and daytime sessions so we have a little time to try and identify the best times, to suit our communities, to recommend.

The dates and times available have been made available to Active Bucks which in turn will be passed on to GLL who will advise the final dates and times.

The meeting sought clarity on paragraph two of the Co-Clerks report which has now been amended to read that there will be two sessions per week for six months.

The other point requiring clarity was the use and availability of halls. New Denham and The Denham Village Hall were chosen because there was no availability at St Marks and Higher Denham was considered too out of the way. It was agreed to do some basic advertising now and it was suggested to place posters in Doctors surgeries, Dentists and noticeboards to advertise the sessions in 'In and Around' magazine. Cllr. Jefferys agreed to create a poster. The Clerk to ascertain whether Active Bucks have any marketing material that the committee could use to promote the sessions.

10. Other Events for 2016

Jazz on the Green:

Cllr Jefferys asked Cllr. Davey if he would take control of this event to which he agreed. Cllr. Davey suggested Anne and the Doughboys could be booked again along with other musical acts such as a string quartet and buskers. Morris Men could also be used in the mix. Cllr. Davey to investigate the possibilities and report back to the next meeting in March. Possible dates include St Georges Day on 23rd April and May Day on the 1st May. Cllr. Williams suggested a timetable of events for each meeting.

Men in Sheds:

An abridged report from the Co-Clerk follows:

Please note: Age UK no longer runs the Men in Sheds project at a national level. However, a number of 'sheds' continue to run at a local level including in Buckingham, Amersham, Wycombe and others.

About Men in Sheds

Men in Sheds was a pilot project set up by Age UK that supported older men who wanted to get together, share and learn new skills - all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'.

Age UK provided the 'Shed' (a workshop), tools, and equipment and a paid co-ordinator for support - but the day-to-day management of the Shed was up to each Shed member, with 'Shedders' deciding on activities they wanted to follow. This gave 'Shedders' control and ownership of their Sheds.

Activities included:

Woodworking, inter-generational skills sharing and socialising

Men in Sheds has also featured heavily in the national and local media including Newsnight, the BBC One's Show and regular stories in the national press. An article on the health benefits of Shedding has also recently appeared in the British Medical Journal.

Men in Sheds Amersham

Members of the newly-formed Amersham Men in Sheds group raised almost £250 from their first street stall. The group, which was set-up in July, took to Amersham High Street in December to showcase the benefits of joining a 'shed'.

The men created a buzz around the stall as they made Robin boxes to order and added perch stands upon request. This personalised touch was appreciated by customers and passers-by were soon stopping to find out more. They sold bat and bug boxes and baskets. The money raised will go back to the non-profit making group who will use it to fund tools, materials and assist with operating costs.

The men were keen to discuss the benefits of attending the group: social interaction and learning and sharing skills. Family members were also in attendance on the day offering support and sharing positive stories about how the group has benefited their loved ones.

New members are always welcome; pop down for a visit and find out more. The group can be found at MARES community Farm, Old Amersham Farm, Old Amersham, HP7 0HR. They meet each Monday from 1pm to 3pm.

Men in Sheds is an initiative run by Community Impact Bucks and supported by Prevention Matters which has funded the set-up of three sheds across the County - in Buckingham, Wycombe and Amersham. It helps men of any age and background to get involved in practical activities such as modelling, woodwork and metalwork or is simply an opportunity to meet others.

The idea behind the project is to give men who have experienced life-changing events such as redundancy, retirement, bereavement or ill-health a place to meet, enabling them to be productive and get involved in local community projects.

For more information about Men in Sheds contact Samantha Hardy at Community Impact Bucks or visit the Men in Sheds section of their website.

Options for Denham:

There is no laid down structure for a 'Men in Sheds' group, it simply needs to meet the needs of the people who turn up and support it. All it needs is a place to meet and participants.

There appears to be very little for the older men of Denham and a group like this might be welcomed. If, say, a group was to meet regularly at the Denham Cricket Club for social interaction and socialising members of that group may be willing to assist with the outfield grass cutting and or small maintenance jobs.

It is possible that a single group might encourage similar initiatives in other communities across the parish.

Cllr. Heath remarked that the Cricket club were in need of new nets and the letting of their clubhouse could raise funds and Men in Sheds would be an ideal location. Cllr. Heath added that some elderly men needed a purpose and that the Cricket Club could investigate the possibility of using their labour to cut the outfield at the Cricket Club.

Cllr. Jefferys suggested that Men in Sheds could form part of the Chairmans monthly page in 'In and Around Denham' once the Chairman had spoken to the Chairman of the Cricket Club.

Village Fayre:

It was agreed that the Parish Council would take a stall at the Denham Village Fayre this year. The stall would be used to promote the Council and its activities.

Cllr. Davey suggested running a tombola on the stall as purely promotional stalls tend to be boring and attract few people. Other suggestions included serving Pimms, however this would require a licence and would be very weather dependant as would another suggestion of serving strawberries and cream. Cllr. Jefferys suggested committing to the stall now and decide later how to utilise it. Cllrs. Hans and Davey to take this initiative forward.

Queens 90th Birthday:

Cllr. Williams offered to take ownership of this event forward. The New Denham Community Centre has been booked by the Clerk for Sunday the 12th June. The kitchen is available all morning and the hall, all afternoon. Cllr. Pamment suggested the Dolly Mixtures be booked for the event; Cllr. Heath agreed and added that Paul, their manager is a good compere. Cllr. Riley is the best contact for the Dolly Mixtures.

Cllr. Heath had met with Rita Lines at the Madeleine Paton Luncheon Club and a list of activities has been given to the Co-Clerk.

11. Christmas Lights Update and Sign Off

Cllr. Jefferys reported that the supplier of the wreaths would be willing to release the Parish Council from the contract; Cllr. Williams enquired what the committee can do for this year and do we pay last years' invoice. Cllr. Bowen stated that the wreaths had not been fit for purpose and Cllr. Heath stated that they were installed late. Cllr. Jefferys advised that the fitting of the wreaths was delayed by the issue of the lamp posts.

Cllr. Heath proposed that we offer to pay £1000.00 plus Vat to the supplier and enter discussions for this this year, seconded by Cllr. Williams and agreed.

12. Website Update

After several false starts we are now making genuine progress. The design of the site is more or less established and pages are set up and are in the process of being populated.

After several false starts we are now making genuine progress. The design of the site is more or less established and pages are set up and are in the process of being populated.

The website will be set up using Wordpress and will be hosted as part of the contract with Nexus.

As with any successful website it is important that the site is kept updated on a regular basis. For this purpose we are, where necessary, ensuring that where a page will display minutes and agendas the page is automatically updated once the relevant document has been uploaded to the site. This is done to also avoid the necessity of constant updating and re-writing pages.

It is hoped that the new site will go live in April and will, as a minimum, include the

- Details of Council Members
- Committees and Members
- Meeting Schedule
- Agenda of Meetings
- Final Minutes of Meetings
- Council Services
 - Play Areas
 - Street Lighting
 - Bus Stops
 - Devolved Services
- Events Blog

It has been suggested by the Chairman of Council that James Tompkins, the main architect of the website, be invited to present the website to the council and perhaps we should consider this for the April Meeting.

Cllr. Heath advised the meeting that all the files for agendas and minutes will need to be converted to pdf files with a new naming convention. Cllr. Hans thought that he may have a solution and would speak to Cllr. Heath after the meeting.

13. Any Other Matters

Cllr. Williams enquired as to the resident's survey. Cllr. Jefferys asked the Clerk to include this on the next Committee agenda.

14. Date of next meeting.

Confirmation of the date of the next Communities and Events Committee meeting on **Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 8pm**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm