

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of Dickens of a Christmas Committee

held at The Olney Centre on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs Bethune (Chair), Brock, Varley, Brown, Bill Bethune, Trevor Aldred, Kathy Danskin, Church Representative, Colin Dooley

In attendance: Sarah Kennedy, Deputy Town Clerk

DoaC21/07: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies received from Cllr Whitworth, Graham Daniels

DoaC21/08: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Trevor Aldred – representing Lions

DoaC21/09: To approve the minutes of the DoaC meeting held on 19th July 2021

Resolved: Cllr Brock proposed the minutes were approved, Colin Dooley seconded, minutes were approved.

DoaC21/10: To receive an update on stall applications received to date

Deputy Town Clerk advised applications have been received from 21 x private individuals, 5 x charity, 6 x Thursday Market, 18 x Farmers Market, total of 50.

Resolved: Colin Dooley and Cllr Bethune to go through applications after the closing date.

DoaC21/11: To discuss entertainment arrangements

Cllr Bethune advised a dance group 3 Keys Performance have contacted us saying they would like to perform, Sheridan Sheepdog, The Great Gappo, Olney Brass Band (Market End only) and the Diamond Theatre Group are coming. Singing for All would like to come, and the office are waiting to hear from Milly, String Quartet & Stony Stratford Mummers. Keith Emmett will be at North & Southend with Fairground.

Resolved: Cllr Bethune confirmed there would be an open stage in the Market Space and requested Cllr Brock contacted the schools to get an idea as to whether they were interested how many performances, for how long etc.

DoaC21/12: An update on logistical arrangements

Cllr Bethune has contacted Souls, they will do Park & Ride, Emberton Park have requested more details, although see no reason why it can't be used for parking. A letter will be sent to the Industrial Estate, except the gym, to ask about parking, Cllr Brock said she would ask Ousedale School about parking, whether this

Signed: Cllr Bethune, 18th October 2021

would be possible and ask for pupils for volunteers to assist. Cllr Brock said we need volunteers and suggested we put together an online post asking for volunteers in general.

Cllr Aldred said the Working Men's Club has declined the Lions booking this year. He said the Olney Centre has been booked, usually holds about 28 stalls, looking into possibility for more stalls outside in the garden area. Cllr Aldred has Joint Event Managers, Angela Johnson and Karen Thorpe-Morgan, 20 to 30 enquiries received for stalls.

Bill Bethune said dates would have to be changed on the signs and to see if they are reusable. Banners and posters to be put up. Cllr Bethune has said that they would need volunteers to put up the posters. Deputy Town Clerk stated that we will need to get permission from MK Council to put up banners.

The Church stated they planned to do a scale down version in the Church Hall and also need volunteers. Deputy Town Clerk volunteered to plot out the map for stalls with help from Colin Dooley.

Colin Dooley offered to mark out, the Market Square on the Thursday night before.

Kathy Danskin said shops would have to think about crowd management, her proposal was late night shopping is not done on Thursday before Dickens.

Cllr Brown confirmed he could be called upon to help and was also available on the day.

Cllr Brock confirmed she was speaking to schools and was happy to help. She will also get a group of volunteers together via social media.

Cllr Bethune will invite dignitaries and needs a list of previous invitees for this.

Cllr Bethune said TOG had advised Father Christmas will not be attending Dickens. Cllr Brock will look into alternatives.

Cllr Bethune said the library usually have story time and will contact FOLIO. Cllr Bethune will also check if reindeer are coming.

Sarah Kennedy said a plan pulling the logistics together needs to be done asap and volunteers with the planning would be appreciated.

Kathy suggested shop keepers could use the pavement outside their shop, Cllr Bethune noted a letter to be sent to shop keepers and letter sent to residents in the locality of the Market Place.

Cllr Aldred advised he had requested that the Carlton Club reconsider the Lions Club stall, awaiting their next meeting.

Next meeting to be held Monday 18th October 2021 at 7:00pm

The meeting finished at 7:40pm

Signed: Cllr Bethune, 18th October 2021