



Wallingford Town Council

**MINUTES**  
**of a meeting of the**  
**TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**held on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at 7.00 pm**  
**in Wallingford Town Hall**

**Present**

**Members:**

Councillor Mike Acreman  
Councillor Steve Beatty  
Councillor Ailsa Charter  
Councillor Mahmood Ebrahimjee  
Councillor Paul Gibbon (Chairman)  
Councillor Jacki Hoskins (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Diana Margarido

**Officers:**

Michelle Taylor, Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
Jennifer Green, Engagement Manager  
Jo Emmerson, Grants Officer

**Others:**

0 members of the public  
0 members of the press

**81/23**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Beatty, and proposed by Councillor J. Hoskins, and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Gibbons be elected Chairman for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year

The Chairman advised attendees of the protocol that would be followed for the meeting.

**82/23**

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Charter, and seconded by Councillor Margarido, and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jacki Hoskins be elected Chairman for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year

**83/22      APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from The Mayor, Councillor Beauchamp.

**84/22      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**85/22      MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Gibbon, and seconded by Councillor Charter, and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Tourism and Economic Development Committee held on 27 March 2023 are an accurate record, and the Chairman is authorised to sign them

**86/23      ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee reviewed progress of actions agreed at the last and previous meetings.

The Chairman and the Engagement Manager reported briefly on recent events including the activities to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, Mayor's Sunday, the Craft Market and the Car Rally. He also spoke about the positivity of having had a Town Council Election for the first time in many years due to the number of people who had wanted to stand.

**87/23      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public attended.

**88/23      VISION FOR WALLINGFORD: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE, TOWN CENTRE, RETAIL & ECONOMY**

Councillor Charter was asked to introduce the exercise to develop a strategy document for the Town Council, including short, medium and long-term objectives and including sections that are relevant to the scope of each committee. This exercise had been informed by a number of community consultations, including one with the secondary school.

**Action:**

**The Chairman asked committee members to let the Engagement Manager have any feedback on the document over the coming days.**

89/23

### **SUMMER EVENTS 2023**

The Committee considered events that were coming up, and agreed committee involvement, including:

- Carnival
- Band Concerts in the Castle Gardens
- Bunkfest
- Agatha Christie statue unveiling and programme of events
- Open Air cinema (possibly)

Councillor Ebrahimjee encouraged the Council staff team to share dates in advance with the Corn Exchange to avoid event clashes.

90/23

### **CURFEW BELL EVENT**

The Chairman outlined the components of the forthcoming Curfew Bell event, including road closure, a Quarter Pell by the St Mary's bell ringers, live music, a poetry competition and a play.

91/23

### **AGATHA CHRISTIE STATUE AND PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

Councillor Beatty explained the components of the forthcoming Murder Mystery weekend including the installation and unveiling of the statue of Agatha Christie, outdoor cinema, a special day run by the Museum, a talk by the author/biographer Lucy Worsley at the Corn Exchange, a Murder Express run by Cholsey and Wallingford Railway and restaurant menu theming. ITV had confirmed they would be covering the event.

92/23

### **EVENT MARKETING**

The Chairman recognised that significant progress had been made, but that there was more to do.

Councillor Beatty, supported by Councillor Margarido, emphasised the importance of email marketing.

The channel mix needed to be aligned to the demographic profile of Wallingford.

93/23

### **TWINNING**

The Engagement Manager reported that various measures had been taken to strengthen our relationship with twinned towns, including the Wallingford Radio cycle trip, a WhatsApp group with the French Mayor and his team and the setting of the Working Group for which some members of the community had already volunteered. Councillor Mark Hoskins had been appointed as the Town Council's lead on Twinning.

The Committee agreed that there was an opportunity to twin with further towns, including potentially a town in Jersey (to which Bad-Wurzach and Luxueil le Bains were already twinned), Wallingford in Connecticut and other places on the Thames Path.

**94/23      AUTUMN AND WINTER EVENTS 2023**

The Chairman introduced a brief discussion on the possibility of events over this period. The diary was full until the end of September. The budget was now quite low although there was the opportunity of sponsorship from local businesses. Polar Express disappointingly would not be in Wallingford this year.

**Action:**

**Committee members to let the Chairman and/or the Engagement Manager know of any ideas over the next fortnight using a new committee WhatsApp group**

**95/23      TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE**

The Engagement Manager reported on recent footfall statistics for the Town Information Centre. Numbers had still not fully recovered to the levels before the COVID-19 pandemic.

**96/23      FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were identified:

- Winter events
- Thames Path/Benson Weir closure – opportunity
- Evaluating the impact of the Town Council's own events or the events that the Town Council is supporting, so we can prioritise ideas

The meeting ended at 8.27 pm

Minutes of the  
Tourism & Economic Development Committee  
14 June 2023,  
signed as a correct record

Chairman

2023-06-14 TED minutes PUBLIC