

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26th OCTOBER 2022
AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Councillor** **Pam Jones (Chair)**
 Richard Platt (Deputy Chair)
 Ginny Boxall
 Lewis Jones
 Christopher Lawrence
 Graham Titterington

In attendance:

 Leah Coney (Town Clerk)

 5 Members of the Public.

119 Chair's announcements

1) I wish to congratulate everyone involved in the recent Walkers are Welcome get together which was held in the town. It's been a pleasure to read the complimentary comments on social media about the event and it was a great way to publicise our town.

2) I am currently trying to find out when the next Health and Well-being Forum is likely to be held. Many local organisations have benefitted from attending this forum in the past....

3) The next important community event will be remembrance Sunday on 13th November when Altonians can gather together at the Cairn to pay their respects to all those who have been affected by conflicts.

120 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

121 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Community Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair

122 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

None received.

123 Questions to the Committee (including those received in writing)

There were no questions to the Committee

124 Armed Forces Day

John Lette and Michael Burn made representation to the Committee on his proposal to bring the Coronation Armed Forces Day Convoy to the town in 2023 at Anstey Park with a briefing paper on the proposal being enclosed in Members bundles. This will comprise 60-70 vehicles and 30

outriders, a living history and will start from either Wickham or Southwark. It will be listed as an official Armed Forces Event with the Ministry of Defence for promotional purposes so Would suggest that ATC contacts the Historic Army Flight at Middle Wallop, the Battle of Britain Flight and RAF Odiham to see if fly pasts could be arranged at some point during the day. The event will also be a fundraiser for Royal British Legion. They will organise the traffic management plan, risk assessment and provide their own first aid and would like to work with the Town Council in respect of the infrastructure set up and events on site at Anstey Park once the convey arrives on site for the day.

On the proposal of Councillor P. Jones seconded by Councillor Lawrence it was proposed to amend the motion to read:

RESOLVED to grant approval in principle for the Coronation Armed Forces Day to be staged at Anstey Park on 24th June 2023, with further liaison in respect of costings and officer resource to be agreed.

This was approved unanimously

On the proposal of Councillor P. Jones seconded by Councillor Boxall it was

RESOLVED to grant approval in principle for the Coronation Armed Forces Day to be staged at Anstey Park on 24th June 2023, with further liaison in respect of costings and officer resource to be agreed.

125 Youth Survey Outcome – Young ACAN

Members had received a report detailing the outcomes of the recent Young ACAN survey, presented at a public Zoom earlier on the 10th October entitled “It’s Their Future” attended by the Councillors Pam Jones and Graham Titterington. In the breakout group, a number of ideas of how young people might engage more with ATC in the future and as such Young ACAN Ambassadors Erdogan Ornek and Lillie Ewins attended the meeting to discuss with Councillors how the recommendations may be progressed.

In summary the recommendations were to:

- Facilitate conversations
- Keep your door open (for mental health)
- Provide opportunities for action – remedy for climate anxiety (maybe using school eco-councils)
- Facilitate inter-generational conversation and collaboration.

During the discussion Lillie commented that the group is looking to create a schools partnership and also be represented at the ACAN/ATC Eco-Fair next summer. The group would also like to have another Eco Schools conference (which covers primary up to college ages from Alton and the surrounding villages.

Councillor Boxall suggested that organising a mini-COP 27 for youth might be a way forward. She would also be happy to approach the ATC Climate Change Sub Committee in respect of having a junior member join, although it was noted that as these meetings are held in the daytime, this might not be feasible.

Councillor P Jones suggested that maybe a member of the group could attend Committee meetings going forward to provide a continued dialogue to the Council to assist the committee in understanding what is important to young people and how the committee can help going forward. In addition, if Young ACAN wished to write an article for the next paper Altonian next Spring, it would help inform a wide audience of their activities.

Councillors recommended finding out more about the Council representatives are for climate change locally through the various tiers of local authority and how they can help. Lillie responded to say that they have a meeting with Damian Hinds and hopefully around 20 young people will be meeting with him.

The Town Clerk suggested that with the local elections next year, as part of the Eco Fair, maybe Young ACAN, as part of a mini-COP, could have a Question Time style panel sessions with Town, District and County Councillors invited alongside our MP.

Councillor L Jones suggested that Young ACAN representatives would be most welcome at the King's Pond Consultation drop-in sessions at the Assembly Rooms on the 18th and 19th November, as it would be great to be able to engage with a wide demographic over the future management of the pond and understand their thoughts on what is an important site environmentally.

Following the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Erdogan and Lillie for coming along this evening and taking the time to come and chat with the committee.

On the proposal of Councillor L Jones seconded by Councillor Titterington, it was

RESOLVED to approve progressing the recommendations from the survey as appropriate.

126 Promotion of Events Grants and Third-Party Events on Alton Town Council land

Members were requested to consider additional ways in which the Council can encourage community organisers to utilise Town Council land to stage events and local activities.

On the proposal of Councillor P Jones seconded by Councillor Boxall, it was

RESOLVED to approve:

1. An increase in the budget allocation for 2023/24 to £4,000 (currently £2,500) to be submitted to budget workshop to encourage additional third-party events to set up or continue to run to the benefit of local people.
2. Issue a press release to highlight the Council's encouragement of third-party events.

127 Lions Club of Alton Classic Car Show Grant Application

A grant application from the Lions Club of Alton had been submitted in the sum of £500 in respect of next year's classic car show to pay for entertainment for the event to be held on Saturday, 16th September 2023.

Members requested that officers have a conversation nearer the time of the event as to whether the Mayor's Charity would remain a beneficiary of fundraising undertaken on the day, as has been the case for the last few years.

On the proposal of Councillor Titterington seconded by Councillor P Jones it was

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £500 to the Lions Club of Alton towards the cost of staging the Classic Car Show on Saturday, 16th September 2023. The grant to be paid from the 2023/24 Budget

128 Warm Hub update

Members received an information sheet produced by the Community Projects and Enhancements Officer who has been liaising with a number of organisations about how best to consider what might be offered at a Town level and how to promote this. The best hubs seem to work in spaces where there is already something going on, such as a coffee morning. The information sheet is currently being finalised and will be published as a poster with links for more information over the coming week.

NOTED

129 Alton Town Council Events programme for 2023

The proposed Alton Town Council event programme for 2023 was presented for consideration and approval to assist with budget preparations for 2023/24

April Easter Egg Hunt (w/c 3rd April or 10th April)
A fun filled morning/afternoon in the Public Gardens for Children. Rather than hiding eggs we will task children to find 5 different coloured paper straws in exchange for an Easter Egg.

May Alton Walking Festival (1st– 31st May)
Expanding on the 2022 successful Walking Festival we will be encouraging more themed walks and evening or early morning walks for people that can't walk during the day due to work commitments. We will be capping the program to 100 walks. We still have medals from 2022 so will be relaunching the walk 100 miles challenge.

Coronation of King Charles III (Saturday 6th May)
No official details have yet been given as to whether Council's are expected to organise specific events for the Coronation, although the Palace has stated that the King wishes the Coronation to reflect modern monarchy and provide good value. Officers have researched the option of a "big screen" event but on the basis that this would cost upwards of £6,000 pounds for an event which can be watched on the television, this has not been progressed.

Alton's Spring Garden Fair (Saturday 13th May)
Outdoor themed fair to include seed swapping and plant stalls.

June Pride Month (June – all month)
(3rd party events) To accompany the "pride" themed planting for 2023 (see In Bloom item below) the Council is seeking to promote local organisations, culture and entertainment which embrace the values of Pride month and support the LGBTQ+ community locally.

Bio-Blitz in Flood Meadows (Saturday 3rd June)

2 years on from the Bio-Blitz at King's Pond, this time the event will be at Flood Meadows finding and identifying as many species of plants, animals and fungi.

Regency Day (17th June) and Victorian Cricket (25th June)

These are 3rd Party events and it is anticipated that these may be supported financially by the Town Council up to £500 each as required.

July

Cycling Festival, Anstey Park (Saturday 1st July)

A new event for 2023, organised by ATC in partnership with Alton Cycle Clubs. Aim – to consider the sustainability of cycling, cycling for health and wellbeing, looking at key target audiences and seeking to increase participation in cycling. A selection of themed rides during the day catering for difference levels of riders with difference types of cycles e.g e-bikes, vintage or retro bikes, mountain bikes. A variety of routes from family rides around town to long distance lycra rides. Invitations to be sent to cycle groups in the local area and beyond to come and join us for the event.

Thank You Day (Sunday 2nd July)

(3rd party event) The inaugural staging of this event, organised by local people will be held at Anstey Park. Timings TBC

Evening Panto/live music (Friday 14th July)

Arrange a children's music or panto to use the marquee erected in the Public Gardens for the Eco Fair.

Westbrooke "Village" fete! (Saturday 15th July)

A new event for 2023 staged in the Public Gardens as a 'village fete' style event in the public gardens, with a marquee featuring traditional classes such as best fruit and veg competition, home-made produce, flowers and live music, etc.. (See item on Alton in Bloom)

Eco Fair (Sunday 16th July)

Return of the Alton Eco-Fair in collaboration with ACAN, held in the Public Gardens. The date coincides with the Alton Bus Rally at Anstey Park but the organisers have been contacted and we hope to be able to provide a bus to take people between venues should they wish to utilise public transport.

Fun Friday (Friday 28th July)

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

August

Fun Friday (Friday 4th August)

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

Live from the bandstand (Sundays in August)

Live from the Bandstand series of summer music.

Fun Friday (Friday 11th August)

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

Fun Friday (Friday 18th August)

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

Fun Friday (Friday 25th August)

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

Local Live Music Showcase (Monday 28th August)

All day – in the Public Gardens. This will be one of our 3rd party supported events. Catherine Jackson has very kindly agreed to organise and run this event, with the Town Council covering the costs of the paid entertainment, toilets, sounds provision and medical cover.

September **Fun Friday (Friday 1st September)**

Children's entertainment in the Public Garden 2pm – 3pm

Lions Classic Car Rally (September)

All day, through the Town Centre. This is also proposed to be a 3rd party supported event, organised by Lions with financial support for entertainment provided by the Town Council.

October **Autumn Walking Festival**

(held across 1 week in October TBC)

November **Alton and Holybourne Remembrance Services**

December **Christmas Events (dates TBC)**

It was noted that the Coronation Armed Forces Day would now be added to the list. Additionally in respect of the Coronation Day itself, the Town Council would be looking to act more as a facilitator for any local residents or groups looking to organise their own celebrations, rather than directly arranging an event on the 6th May.

On the proposal of Councillor Lawrence seconded by Councillor Boxall it was

**RESOLVED to
Approve the calendar of events for 2023**

The vote was carried unanimously

130 In Bloom Planting Scheme and Event

Planting Scheme

For 2023 the Town Hall is seeking to maintain a mixed scheme of planting to be mindful of the impact of climate change but also recognising that residents and visitors to the town like to see a colourful displays alongside the decorative pole banners which will be installed again for 2023.

In this coming year the planting scheme for window boxes and railing planters in the town centre will be multi coloured bedding plants, reflecting the theme of Pride, with a rainbow of plants installed in the feature beds in the Public Gardens.

Alton In Bloom Competition

As we reported last year competition element of In Bloom has become quite dated and is time consuming for officers particularly with the award ceremony and presentation as well as judging. The traditional format of In Bloom was replaced with a new concept in 2022 where residents signed up (or pledged) to undertake one of the following categories of tasks including re-wilding, incredible edibles, wildlife friendly planting and tree planting.

The Queen's Green Canopy is progressing well with the first trees due to be planted on 17th November with students from Sparsholt College undertaking phase 1 planting. The trees have been sourced locally from Southern Fruit Trees at Blackmoor and a commemorative plaque and interpretation panel detailing each tree and sponsor will also be installed alongside the canopy. However, other aspects of the In Bloom programme were not well supported and the proposal for 2023 is to stage a traditional style "village fete" at the Public Gardens with classes for plants, flowers, home grown produce to try and alternative approach.

Members were very happy with the proposals and suggested that either the Horticultural Society or ALFI be approached to help with the "village fete" and judging the classes.

On the proposal of Councillor L Jones seconded by Councillor Boxall it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the proposals for Alton in Bloom as tabled

The meeting finished at 8.12pm