

ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Present: Councillors: Mr A Bates; Mrs D Brown; Mr E Brown; Mr P Chell; Dr G Clark; Mrs Cooper; Ms J Keyne; Ms B Michalek; Ms S Moore; Mr M Spencer and Mrs A Smith

In attendance: Carole Dean; Town Clerk; Samantha Higton; Assistant Clerk.

A/24/1724 Apologies for absence

None received

A/24/1725 Variation of Order of Business

None received

A/24/1726 Declarations of Members Interests

None received

A/24/1727 To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None received

A/24/1728 Public Questions and Comments – (3 Minutes per speaker a maximum 15 Minutes in total)

Cllr Moore stated that DDDC Cllr Dobbs had given an update on the Banking Hub in Ashbourne and that the District Council would be discussing the re-opening of the toilets on the Recreation Ground / Memorial Gardens

Cllr Bates stated that DDDC were reviewing the car park and charges soon following the consultation

A/24/1729 Members to consider the Hanging Basket and Planter scheme for 2025. Members to note that due to Ashbourne Reborn works starting, it may not be possible to have hanging baskets on all properties due to access. Members to advise the contractor, colour scheme, price per basket and location of planters

Members RESOLVED that due to the various works around the town relating to the Ashbourne Reborn scheme they would not put any hanging baskets or planters put in place this year

It was further RESOLVED that the funds allocated for this year be carried forward to the next financial year

A/24/1730 Members to outline proposed events for 2025. Provisional enquiry forms need to be submitted to DDDC six months before an event

a) Members to agree and set a date for the Fireworks event

It was RESOLVED to hold the Fireworks event on Friday 7 November 2025

b) Members to agree and set a date for the Christmas Light Switch-On

It was RESOLVED to hold the Christmas Light Switch-On event on Saturday 15 November 2025

c) Members to agree and set a date of the Lantern Spectacular event

It was RESOLVED to suggest Saturday 6 December to members of the Christmas Committee for the Lantern Spectacular Event

A/24/1731 Members, staff and any other feedback relating to the Fireworks Event (2024)

Cllr Mr Brown stated that the taped off area around the fireworks set up had been broken and he felt that a member of the fireworks company should be at the area at all times

It was agreed to actively discourage people from bringing sparklers to the event

Cllr Clark reported that someone had tripped on the cables at the fair; however, it had been dealt with at the time

Cllr Mrs Brown stated that there were not enough Councillors to Marshall the event

Cllr Bates stated that the security firm employed were totally inadequate

A/24/1732 Members, staff and any other feedback relating to the Christmas Light Switch-On event (2024)

Cllr Bates said that there may be more room for spectators and visitors to stand safely if the stage was turned in a different direction and faced towards 'Fat Face'

The Clerk advised that she had concerns regarding people's safety particularly when they were leaving the Event

It was RESOLVED that a road closure be put in place for this year's event. The times to be agreed at a future meeting

A/24/1733 Members, staff and any other feedback relating to the Lantern Spectacular Event (2024)

Cllr Chell said that it had been a very last-minute decision whether to ahead with the event due to the predicted weather forecast

Cllr Moore stated that some lorries were ignoring the diversion signs on King Street; the metal diversion signs needed to be replaced with new plastic ones and also new sandbags were needed. Cllr Moore also suggested putting a road closure in place on Station Road from the junction of King Edward Street to Church Street to allow the parade to walk from St Oswald's Church

Cllr Mrs Brown stated that more marshalls were needed for the event

The Clerk stated that she thought that it should only be the Mayor that carried a lantern in the parade and all other Councillors should be marshalls for the event

Cllr Michalek stated that she would like more direction on what to do at the event

Cllr Mrs Brown said that a vote of thanks should also be given to Cllr Chell's son for all his help with collecting the diversion signs after the event

Cllr E Brown stated that he had concerns regarding surges in the parade and the effect of the crowds

A/24/1734 Members have been asked for any suggestions from a family for something in memory of a late Town Councillor

Members suggested that a mature tree could be planted in Bradley Wood, the family could contact FoAP regarding possibly planting a tree on the proposed tree lined path on the Recreation Ground or there may be a possibility of having a shrub / tree planted in the border once Millenium Square was re-developed

A/24/1735 Chair to sign the Minutes (Previously approved and ratified)

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed by the Chair

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Chairman.....

Date.....