



AGENDA

This meeting is open to the public to attend and contribute to, all are welcome.

Heather Neate, Mark Farren, Rebecca Maddox, John Cockaday, Jo Hughes, Robin Hughes, Andrew Horsnell

Clerking: Tor Warburton

Chair asked if the Group are happy to be a Working Group or would prefer to be a committee?

Cllr Robin Hughes expressed his concerns regarding the Working Group, as it can't make decisions and has no budget. If a committee with a budget, decision could be made and potentially things achieved without having to refer back to Full Council.

Will be reviewed at the November meeting.

1. To **elect a Vice-Chairman** for the Working Group from Councillors present.

Cllr R Hughes nominated and Cllr H Neate seconded Cllr Jo Hughes, there being no other nominations Cllr J Hughes was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Community and Events Working Group for 2023/2024.

2. **Christmas Decorations:**

FC resolved (**C061/06/23**) - Consideration of wayleaves, easements or catenaries for extra Christmas decorations to be referred back to WG for further consideration.

There was discussion about how to get the wayleaves/easements.

Cllr H Neate commented she thought that Cllr K Bird had some experience with this and would contact her for further information.

Cllr Robin Hughes will approach TVBC to see if they have any information.

Information will be fed back to the Deputy Clerk to approach the owners of the relevant buildings in the High Street once information is gathered.

This will then be referred to Full Council for a decision on next steps.

3. **Rooksbury Mill historic walk:**

FC resolved (**C061/06/23**) - Consideration of making repairs to the historic walk be referred back to WG for further consideration.

- Could Andover Mens' Shed Group help with repairing elements of the walk.
- If time should be spent on this project?
- Who will be responsible for investigating any possibilities?



Cllr H Neate suggested that the Working Group ask Cllr Luigi Gregori to take lead as he has already done significant work on this.

This is an existing TVBC offering so would need to make sure care is taken on how this is approached.

Cllr Robin Hughes suggested that ATC sponsor Men's Shed to help rejuvenate the wooden posts, gates etc. rather than giving funds to Test Valley Borough Council to make the repairs.

Andrew Horsnell suggested that it would be nice to repair/recreate the railway gate and possibly the keepers shed.

Working Group would need to find out what planning/approval is needed from TVBC.

When all the information has been gathered TVBC to be approached to work out next best steps.

Once all information is in place a report to be taken to Full Council for a decision.

4. Grants

- a. To note report from Armed Forces Day (video) – to follow – **not yet received.**
- b. To review and discuss Grant Applications (sent under separate cover)

Cllr H Neate asked if this was appropriate for us to look at the applications.

Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Grants can't be decided at this meeting, but a sanity check can be applied, and any further questions needed to go back to the applicants to answer prior to taking to Full Council.

Rooting for Andover

Concern shown regarding the funds already in the bank.

Cllr Robin Hughes explained that this should not necessarily stop them applying, because the reserves could be to run the organisations, and or not enough to run the event. This would need to be established.

Cllr Robin Hughes explained that Community Officer needs to be careful about potentially recommending Grants for review in the supplied report. Would be better to just say this application meets the Grant Policy criteria.

Community Officer to go back to Rooting for Andover and enquire about the funds in the bank, how they are to be spent, why they are asking for funding if money is already there.



Spotlight

It does not appear that they have applied for Grants from any other organisation. Cllr Mark Farren would like to ask if they have you applied to other organisations (TVBC, HCC) and if not, will they?

Cllr Mark Farren was under the impression that they applied for a Grant this time last year and it was refused. Deputy Clerk said she would find out the reasons and email the Working Group.

Andrew Horsnell was concerned that if the children who would benefit are really deprived and if it will allow them to take part in activities. Why can't ATC just do it.

Cllr Robin Hughes asked for confirmation if Spotlight is a National Charity? If so, they would need to demonstrate that this grant, if approved, would benefit only the residents/children of Andover.

Community Officer to go back to applicants and ask:

- **why applying for further funding if they already have funds in the bank?**
- **which schools are they approaching?**
- **who else they plan or have approached for further funding?**

Once information has been gathered will be emailed to Working Group for further consideration.

5. Suggestions for other Yearly events

Ideas on future events for investigation and reporting to Full Council:

a. Pride event in Andover.

Fireworks for the Pride event would make the event more complete.

Cllr Mark Farren/Cllr Jo Hughes to take forward and report back to the Working Group.

b. 80-year anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2024 – **Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) confirmed that there is nothing planned yet for this. Cllr H Neate will speak to Cllr K Bird.**

c. 80-years since the end of WWII in 2025 - **Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) confirmed that there is nothing planned yet for this. Cllr H Neate will speak to Cllr K Bird.**

d. TVBC are very keen to start up a Teenager Market should we get involved – **Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) confirmed that this is just an idea at present and will present further information when she has it.**

e. Christmas Event in conjunction with Christmas lights. To hear a short verbal report from from Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) & a representative from the BID.



Andover Town Council
Community & Events Working Group
Wednesday 5th July 2023 The Lights – 6.30pm

Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) presented her Christmas Festival information. (Attach to minutes). She explained the history behind the new format. Covid allowed the event to 'reset', to spread the footfall across the town and relieve the issue with overcrowding.

Cllr Robin Hughes was concerned that within the budget breakdown the Christmas Lights does not feature. It was explained that the paperwork presented was purely for Andover Town Council to explore further opportunities of additional investment in the event, not a full breakdown of costs and who contributes what. Rebecca Maddox said that she would be mindful of this if any information was made public.

Cllr Mark Farren showed concern that the offering of the lights is not great value for money. Costs a lot and not much to see, that there are far better displays for less elsewhere in the country. Cllr Robin Hughes disagreed. Deputy Clerk pointed out that the costs of the Christmas Lights include storage, installation, removal, and the Christmas tree, not just the lights.

Cllr Mark Farren asked if TVBC were planning on doing fireworks this year? Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) explained that no budget and concern for crowd safety meant that they would not be doing fireworks.

Cllr Robin Hughes asked if the overall budget for the event is less this year than last year? Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) confirmed it is. Cllr Robin Hughes asked if there has been a reduction on funding for this event year on year. Rebecca commented it is difficult to know as Covid interrupted the event, but she would find out and report back (check pre-Covid).

Andrew Horsnell suggested approaching big businesses for sponsorship in order to grow the event. He is aware of several of the big local business that would be happy to sponsor but have never been asked. Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) asked him to supply her with the names of the businesses and she would contact them.

Cllr Jo Hughes asked if there is going to be a sensory area for those who find it overwhelming? Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) believes that there is but will confirm. Certainly, the library has shown an interest in offering this.

The Working Group looked at the proposals for ATC to further contribute to the event. Cllr Mark Farren asked what money has been put aside for this? It was explained that no money has yet been specifically put aside for this, but there is money available the Working Group need to consider whether they feel it is something the Council should look at first.

It was mentioned that it has been suggested that ATC Officers investigate a Firework provision at an event for Andover. It was suggested that 10K be considered as the figure used by ATC Officers when carrying out the investigations into the potential offering. Given that Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) has already said that due to crowd safety this would not be



something TVBC would look at doing for this event, should ATC consider using the 10K proposed for fireworks to fund further contribution to the Christmas Festival.

It was discussed that sponsoring the lights for the Switch on (£750 - £1K) would be a good fit once it is established what funds are available and where they are coming from. It was agreed/discussed that the Town Mayor would switch on the lights.

Deputy Clerk to ask the RFO where she suggests which budget line further contribution to the Christmas Festival is taken from. When that is decided and what is potentially available, the Deputy Clerk will email the Working Group so that a more informed recommendation can be taken to Full Council for approval.

- f. Easter event – we could do something there.
- g. Halloween – remove as already established by the BID.
- h. Shilling Fair – can be done next year if Working Group wish to take it further and take to Full Council

Cllr H Neate would like to know what has already been decided in the area, what ATC can take on or do we collaborate.

Rebecca Maddox (TVBC) to give the skeleton plan on events happening. Aim to have a calendar of events for the public spread across the year.

When Rebecca has supplied the calendar of planned events for 2024 then further discussion can be had on what the Working Group would like to present to Full Council.

6. Memorial

To discuss the suggestion of a Town Memorial to all combatants from all conflicts.

Cllr John Cockaday explained that he had been on a Working Group, previously, with Barbara Long where the suggestion was looked at and it was not progressed further as not considered practicable.

Cllr H Neate will go back to Cllr K Bird and explain that the Working Group did not feel it would be practicable to progress but if she wanted to take it to Full Council for consideration she could.

Cllr H Neate would like an Allotments Open Day added to the Work Programme. Deputy Clerk to look at what has been done on this before and email Working Group. This would be looked at for next year 2024.

Will be discussed in September meeting.



7. Any other business

Cllr H Neate wanted to change the ATC heraldic sign because she does not feel it is visible enough. It was discussed if we put Andover Town Council banner under the shield. Need to find a designer who can do that for us and take to Full Council.

Cllr Robin Hughes said that he would be very against changing the ATC shield, he remembered it taking a lot of effort time and money to get the rights to use it. He explained the history behind it. He said it would be very against changing it. It was therefore discussed that maybe two different emblems could be adopted, one for official documents and one for publicity. It was felt that this would dilute the brand. It needs to be made bigger, more recognisable.

It was suggested that local groups be asked if they want to have a look redesigning the crest.

Deputy Clerk/Cllr Robin Hughes to investigate 'refreshing' the crest for consideration at the next Working Group meeting prior to potentially referring to Full Council.

Concern was expressed over the website, Deputy Clerk to confirm which Committee the website sits under.

Cllr Mark Farren is not impressed with the newsletter, information in it is good, the look of it is very amateur. Needs to be better next time.

Cllr John Cockaday said we need to have better publicity regarding what we do – he used the Christmas lights as an example.

Cllr Mark Farren not keen on using the Andover Advertiser. We need to think about our marketing. Advertising the Town Council/publicity to be added to the Work programme.

8. Format for next meeting – will be via Zoom

9. Date for next meeting – 7 September 7.00pm